

“The Passover”

Study: Exodus 12:29-51

Reading: Genesis 15:1-21

Memory: Proverbs 3:19

Exodus



What Does the Bible Say?

We are not told if any Israelites chose not to listen to Moses but it is generally assumed that all of them would have obeyed and participated in the first Passover meal. Not only was the meal vital, but the choice to place the blood on the doorposts was essential because God did what He said He was going to do. At midnight God killed all of the first born of the land of Egypt. This plague affected the greatest in the kingdom to the lowest servant in the kingdom. Every household felt the sting of death when they woke up the next morning and God knew that it would take something so severe to finally get Pharaoh to act. Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron that night and told him to take the children of Israel and leave the land. Moses and Aaron no longer had to plead for their children and flocks to be allowed to go with them because Pharaoh told them to go and take everything they had (vs 29-32).

Many of the Egyptians had wanted Pharaoh to let the Israelites go after the previous plagues, but now they were insistent that the Israelites leave and they wanted them to leave in a hurry. The Egyptians were afraid they would all lose their lives if the Israelites stayed in the land any longer. The Egyptians were pushing the Israelites out of the land so they had to take everything with them without having much time to prepare. The Israelites asked the Egyptians for gold and silver and the Egyptians gave them much of their wealth as the Israelites headed out of the land. We are told that the Israelites had found favor with the Egyptians and this was most likely a result of the fear of God that was placed on their minds after the plagues (vs 33-36).

Verse 37 is the first time the size of the Israelite nation was mentioned and we are told that there were over 600,000 men. That number did not include women and children. This meant that the total number was probably over a million and a half people that were leaving the land. They did not leave alone since there were others who left with them. They were described as a “mixed multitude” (ESV). This group probably included

Egyptians and slaves from other countries that were in Egypt. It is emphasized that they all left in a hurry. They did not have time to let the dough for their bread rise, but had to take unleavened bread with them on their trip just as God had declared would happen (vs 37-39).

After 430 years of living in Egypt, God had delivered the Israelites from the land just as He had told Abraham He would back in Genesis 15:13. God kept watch over the people and took care of them and this is something that is still celebrated by Jews today (vs 40-42).

God instituted the Passover remembrance and told them that in the years to come, only the Israelites and those that have become part of the Israelite nation were to participate in the Passover. If strangers wanted to partake in the Passover meal, all the males were to be circumcised in order to partake. This was to be a special celebration for the children of God to remember His great deliverance. God didn't want this celebration to be changed into something more than the remembrance that He wanted it to be (vs 43-51).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you understand why the Passover is such a big deal in the history of the world? It is still celebrated today, but does not carry the significance among the Jews as it was originally intended. For many Jews, it has become ritual or a national holiday. Jewish believers in Yeshua highly revere this day, but their celebration points to the Passover Lamb. The Passover was meant to point to Christ and the day that He would become the Passover Lamb to deliver men from their sin. Just as those who did not place the blood on their doorpost would face death, so those who do not trust in the blood of the Lamb of God will face eternal damnation. The picture of the Passover is a glorious picture of God's power and deliverance and should be a reminder to us today of God's great plan of salvation. It should cause great rejoicing in our hearts just as the deliverance from Egypt brought great rejoicing for the Israelites.

Thought for the day

What did the Lord do at midnight (vs 29)?

How severe was this plague (vs 29)?

What happened to every Egyptians household (vs 30)?

How did this finally break Pharaoh (vs 31)?

What request did Pharaoh give Moses at the end of verse 32?

Why do you think he asked this of Moses?

What did the Egyptians want the Israelites to do (vs 33)? Why?

What did the people take with them (vs 34)?

How did God miraculously provide for the Israelites (vs 35)?

How was this an act of God (vs 36)?

How many Israelites were there (vs 37)?

What else and who else traveled with the Israelites (vs 38-39)?

How long were the Israelites in Egypt (vs 40)?

What do you think verse 42 means?

What order did God give (vs 43)? Why do you think He gave this order?

What were they not to break (vs 46)?

Who was supposed to celebrate this event yearly (vs 47)?

What needed to take place if a person wanted to celebrate the Passover (vs 48)? Why (vs 49)?

How did the people respond (vs 50-51)?

“Remember”

Study: Exodus 13:1-16

Reading: Luke 22:14-23, 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

Memory: Proverbs 3:19

For several years after my wife and I were married, we would take time on or around our wedding anniversary to watch the video of our wedding and the video of our honeymoon. We did this for several years until the kids grew older and we seemed to always be gone on spring break around our anniversary. Little by little it was easy to forget many of the things that took place and the feelings surrounding the wonderful event. We occasionally take time to watch the video of that day and the commitments we made to each other, but there is something special about a time of remembrance.

Today, we are going to see the importance God placed on remembering the past as a reminder for the present and future.

What Does the Bible Say?

The Passover was designed by God to be a very big deal for the nation of Israel. In memory of their deliverance, the Israelites were to set aside the first born of all that was living, men and animals, who were to be consecrated to God (vs 1-2).

We will go back to verse two shortly, but, down in verse 11, God continued His instructions about the first born. Once they reached the Promise Land, every first born child was to belong to God. When an animal or child was the first born, it would have to be redeemed by the family. If the family did not want to redeem the animal, the animal would have to die. Most of the firstborn animals would be given to God as a sacrifice. Unclean animals, like the donkey mentioned here, would have to have a clean animal sacrificed for it or would have to die. For a child, a sacrifice would have to be made in order for that child to be “bought back” from the Lord. This was instructed by God to be a regular reminder of God’s great deliverance from Egypt. God knew how easy it was for humans to forget the great things He had done so He set up different ways to help Israel remember Him and the great things He had done for them as a nation (vs 11-16).

Though Moses had already instructed the people about the Passover, He once again told them the importance of the day. They were to remember this day for years to come because of the great and powerful hand of God. They were not to eat leavened bread during the Feast of Unleavened bread as a memorial to remember how they had to leave Egypt in a hurry. Once they arrived in the Promise Land, full of bountiful riches, it was going to be very easy for the pain and misery of Egypt to become a distant memory. This is a memory that God wanted them to keep in their mind. By setting aside their first born and by having a feast and celebration each year, God was helping His people establish a time of remembrance for His great deliverance (vs 3-10).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Why was it so important for the Israelites to remember what God had done? The remembrance that God wanted them to have wasn’t just to make them feel good about the past but was to be a constant reminder of the present and the future. When you remember what God has done in the past, it encourages you to trust Him and follow Him today. You, as a New Testament believer, are not instructed to keep the Passover, but you are told to participate in the Lord’s Supper (communion) at your local church as a time to remember what Christ has done. Just as the Israelites were delivered from the bondage of the Egyptians, you have been delivered from the bondage of your sin. Having something established as a constant reminder of that deliverance was God’s plan in order to help you today. As you think about the deliverance that God has given you in the past, how is it challenging you to live today?

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Thank God for the great salvation He has provided for you.
- * Ask God to help you live with Him constantly on your mind.

Thought for the day

What command did God give (vs 1-2)?

What do you think this command meant?

What did God want them to remember (vs 3)?

What did God command that the people do (vs 4-5)?

Why do you think God established this time for Israel?

What were they to do for seven days (vs 6-7)?

What were they to tell their children (vs 8)?

Why did God say He was having the Israelites do this (vs 9)?

When were they supposed to keep this feast (vs 10)?

Why do you think God wanted them to remember this occasion for years to come?

What were they to set apart once they reached the land of Canaan (vs 11-12)?

Why did God give this command?

What do you think it meant to “redeem” the first born (vs 13)?

Why did the first born play such an important part in the whole process established by God (vs 14)?

Why did God say he was establishing this (vs 14-15)?

What do you think verse 16 means?

Why did God establish feasts and festivals for remembrance?

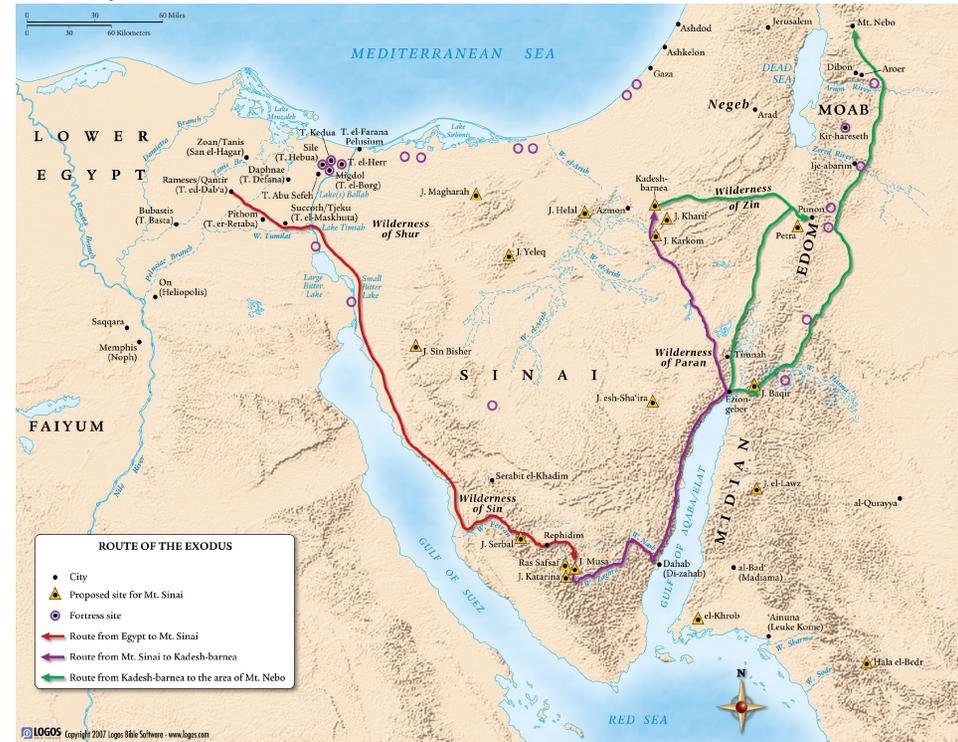
What are ways you have established times of remembrance in your life?

“God’s Leading”

Study: Exodus 13:17-22

Reading: Proverbs 3:1-35

Memory: Proverbs 3:19



Proposed Route of the Exodus - From Logos Bible Maps

What Does the Bible Say?

The Israelites were now on their way out of Egypt. The shortest and most direct route would have been to go along the Mediterranean Sea and travel through the land of the Philistines. The reason God chose not to do this was because He knew the Philistines would be the toughest battle for the Israelites since they were the strongest army in that region. If they faced war as soon as they left Egypt, it would have been too overwhelming for them since none of them were soldiers nor had they been trained in fighting (vs 17).

God chose to lead the people through the wilderness (more of a desert)

by the Red Sea. We are told that they were equipped for battle, though we are not told where they got their weapons. Most likely, the Egyptians gave them some armor and weapons as they left the land. When they traveled out of the land, they also took the bones of Joseph with them. Before Joseph had died, he told his family that he wanted to be buried in the Promise Land, and they remembered that promise for over 400 years. This reveals how different their culture was than our culture today and gives us some insight into the family loyalty that existed (vs 18-19).

There is great debate about the exact route that the Israelites took out of Egypt since some of the places mentioned in Scripture are very difficult to properly identify. What is clear is that the Israelites were not left by God to fend for themselves, but God led them each step of the way. God did this by appearing in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. We are not sure exactly what this would have looked like, but the idea of a pillar would mean that it went straight up and down. It was very clear that this was God's leading. When the cloud and fire moved, the people would move. When it stayed, the people would stay. This is more interesting when we start to read about how much the Israelites complained to Moses about being led by him, when the whole time, they were being led by God (vs 20-22).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you find yourself forgetting that God desires to lead you in life? Do you ever get into situations when you know God has led you and yet things don't seem to make sense? In the next several weeks, you are going to read several times about the complaining Israelites. The thing they complained about the most was where God had led them, though most of the time they blamed earthly leaders or circumstances. It is interesting to note that right from the beginning, God established the fact that He loved His people and that He would lead them into what was best for them. They could even see the leading of God and found themselves complaining. This is a great reminder to you of the fact that God loves you as His child and He will direct you into the path that He wants you to go. Though where He leads might not always be the easiest for you, it is always the best for you.

Suggestions for Prayer

* Ask God to help you follow His leading and trust His plan.

What did God choose not to do (vs 17)?

What can you learn about God's leading from this verse?

Why is it easy for some people to get upset at God when you don't think He is leading you in the right direction?

How did God lead the people (vs 18)?

Why do you think we are told that they were "equipped for battle" (vs 18 - ESV)?

What did the Israelites take with them when they traveled (vs 19)? Why?

****Genesis 50:26 tells us that Joseph was embalmed and put in a coffin, while here we are told that they carried the bones of Joseph with them as they left Egypt. A common practice among the Israelites was to place bones in ossuaries (smal. boxes) after the body decomposed. We do not know if that was done or not. Joshua 24:32 describes how they buried the bones of Joseph in Shechem in the promise land.*

Where did they end up camping (vs 20)?

****The wilderness was a large expanse of desert areas. This was not a "sand" desert but was full of rugged cliffs and arid mountains.*

What did God do for the Israelites (vs 21)?

What do you think these looked like?

Why do you think it was important for God that He lead the people?

What didn't leave the people (vs 22)?

What can you learn about God's love and care from this?

How does God still lead His people today?

Why is it so important to trust in the leading of God?

“Waiting for the Miraculous”

Study: Exodus 14:1-14

Reading: Mark 11:20-25, I Kings 17:8-24

Memory: Proverbs 3:19

What makes something miraculous? The more impossible something appears to be, the more miraculous an event. Most people long to see miracles and the mighty working of God in their lives, but what they don't realize is that in order to see the great working of God, they normally have to face great difficulties. The greater the difficulty, the greater the miracle. The problem that often arises that hinders many believers from seeing the miracles they desire is the fact that they are not willing to wait on God patiently through the difficulties. It is easy for all of us to act in our own power and strength to make things happen on our own. We might do an okay job, but we miss out on the miracles that God was waiting to perform. At other times, when we act on our own to get ourselves out of trouble, we really mess things up. Choosing to trust God through great difficulties will allow you to experience great deliverance.

Today, we are going to see that God led the Israelites into a very difficult situation so He could perform a greater miracle.

What Does the Bible Say?

God knew that Pharaoh would change his mind and come after the Israelites. He told Moses to lead the people (God also led them by cloud and fire) to an area along the Red Sea where they basically would be trapped by the Egyptians. Again, there is great debate as to the exact spot where they traveled to, but what is clear is that they were led to this dead end by God. The place where they went to was most likely a large plateau along the Red Sea with mountains on both side of them. God specifically told Moses that He was leading them into this difficult spot so that He would receive great glory for what He was about to do. He was going to make it very clear to both the Egyptians and the Israelites that He was an incredibly powerful God (vs 1-4).

It took a few days for the Egyptians to recover from the death of their first born and to realize that their whole society was changed without the

million plus slaves that worked for them. They quickly forgot the pain of the plagues and could only see the problems they were now facing with the Israelites gone. Pharaoh decided that he was going to go after the Israelites and bring them back to Egypt. Pharaoh summoned up all of his military might and chased after the Israelites and soon came close to the area they were staying at near the sea (vs 5-9).

You can imagine the fear that was stirred in the hearts and minds of the Israelites as they saw the dust being kicked up by the Egyptian chariots as they raced towards the Israelites. The Israelites were trapped and there was no way for them to escape. They began to cry out to Moses and the Lord. They asked Moses why he would do this to them and lead them to a place in the wilderness which gave them hope only to lead them to die there in the wilderness. The people soon forgot how miserable their lives were in Egypt and started to declare that they would have been better off in Egypt than to face what they were about to face from the Egyptian army. Moses tried to calm them and encourage them to trust in the power of God. This difficulty was only happening so that they could see the great and mighty power of the Lord. He assured them that God would deliver them and that they would see the mighty hand of God in a way that was absolutely incredible. He told them that God was on their side and would fight for them. This would be the last time they would see the Egyptians because God would cause great destruction to the Egyptian army (vs 10-14).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you get upset at God when it seems that He leads you into situations that are not what you expected? Do you tend to doubt and fear as you step out in faith and obedience but things get harder for you? It is amazing to note that God led the Israelites into a spot along the Red Sea where He was the only One that could save them from the Egyptians. It is easy to knock the Israelites for their lack of faith and their tendency to complain since it had only been a few days since God had miraculously delivered them from Egypt, but they are not much different than you and me. It is so easy to forget what God has done for you and just look at the problems of your current circumstance, not realizing that God has led you there to show Himself mighty to you. As you choose to be obedient to God, He may lead you into some rather difficult circumstances. At the same time, He will also prepare miraculous ways to deliver you from those situations.

Where did God tell Moses to lead the Israelites (vs 1-2)?

****We do not know the exact location, but we do know that it was in a place where they were trapped between two mountains and the sea. There was only one way in and out of their camp.*

What did God know that Pharaoh would think (vs 3)?

What was God going to do to Pharaoh's heart (vs 4)?

What was God's plan in this whole process (vs 4)?

Why do you think God was concerned about getting the glory?

What would the Egyptians realize (vs 4)?

What did Pharaoh begin to question (vs 5)?

Why do you think the memories of the plagues faded so quickly?

What did Pharaoh decide to do (vs 6-7)?

Why do you think Pharaoh chased the Israelites (vs 8)?

What did God allow Pharaoh's army to do (vs 9)?

What did the Israelites do when they saw Pharaoh's army coming (vs 10)?

What did the people begin to question (vs 11)?

What did they recount (vs 12)?

What does this show about human nature?

What did Moses tell the people not to do (vs 13)?

What was Moses confident of (vs 14)?

Why is it so important to have a proper view of the power of God?

“Amazing Deliverance”

Study: Exodus 14:15-31

Reading: Psalm 74:1-23

Memory: Proverbs 3:19

What Does the Bible Say?

The panic of the Israelite nation was growing as they could see the Egyptian army getting closer and closer. This panic and fear caused the people to turn on Moses and Moses went to God with his concerns. The response to Moses from God is quite interesting. God asked Moses why he was calling out to Him for help. It is hard to know the exact way this conversation took place, but it appears Moses was hesitating because of fear of wanting to make sure that God was going to somehow deliver them. God instructed Moses to lift up his staff and to stretch it out over the water. God's plan was to deliver the Israelites through the sea, and then make it enticing for Pharaoh and his men to try to follow them through the parted waters. When they did, He would cause the sea to close, destroying the power of the Egyptian army. This would be an additional action that would bring great glory to God for many years to come (vs 15-18).

For added effect, God caused the pillar of cloud that had been leading the Israelites to go to the back of the Israelite camp and to become a barrier between the Israelites and the Egyptians. This was a wall of protection that was going to keep the Israelites safe while God caused strong winds to part the sea and dry out the ground. This allowed the Israelites to walk across the Sea on solid, dry ground. Remember, there were probably over two million Israelites at the time, attempting to make this crossing. This was not a small task because they were crossing with their animals, possessions, the young and the old. This must have been an amazing sight to see from a distance and must have also been amazing for the Israelites to see huge walls of water on both sides (vs 19-22).

It is assumed that as the last of the Israelites moved, the cloud pillar moved right behind them, keeping them safe from the Egyptians. We do know that when the Egyptians started to move into the sea, God caused the sea ground to become soft, bogging down many of the chariots. After a while, the Egyptian army started realizing their efforts were useless. The

Egyptians turned around, realizing they were fighting a losing battle (vs 23-25).

God wasn't going to allow them to escape that easily, knowing they would cause more trouble for the Israelites. He told Moses to stretch out his rod over the sea again, and when Moses did, the sea started to crash in on the Egyptian army, causing them to perish in the sea. While this was happening behind them, the remaining Israelites were able to finish their trek on dry ground. The bodies of the Egyptian soldiers washed up on the sea shore and the great victory and miracles they had just seen were starting to sink into the minds of the Israelites. Their faith and trust in God and the leadership of Moses increased because of this and started to prepare them for many of the difficulties ahead (vs 26-31).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you in awe and amazement over the power of God? Have you thought about how wonderful it would have been to be there and experience that great victory? In order to experience the great victory, they first had to experience a great trial. This should be a reminder to you when the trials and difficulties of life come your way. It is easy to follow God when everything is going well, but when trials and difficulties come, it is hard to remember the great and mighty delivering power of God. The great thing for you today is to realize that the same mighty and powerful God who delivered the Israelites from the Egyptians is the same powerful God who wants to help you today. Your trials will look different and your deliverance will take on a different form, but you have the same God with the same power. He doesn't always choose to deliver with the miraculous, but He will deliver in His way or His time, which is always best.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for the way He has delivered you.*
- * *Ask God to help you trust in His mighty power.*
- * *Praise God because His power is limitless.*

Thought for the day

What did God ask Moses (vs 15)?

Why do you think He asked this?

What did God tell Moses to instruct the people to do (vs 15)?

What was God's plan for deliverance (vs 16)?

What was going to happen to the Egyptians (vs 17)?

What was going to be clear to the Egyptians and all who heard about this (vs 18)?

What did the pillar of cloud do (vs 19)?

What does this reveal about God and His power to protect?

How did this protection continue throughout the night (vs 20)?

What did God do once Moses stretched his hand over the sea (vs 21)?

How was this a great miracle (vs 21-22)?

What did the Egyptians decide to do (vs 23)?

How did God cause a great hindrance for the Egyptian army (vs 24-25)?

What did the Egyptian army decide to do (vs 25)?

What did God instruct Moses to do (vs 26)?

What happened to the Egyptian army (vs 27-28)?

How did this not affect the Israelites (vs 29)?

How did this show the great power of God (vs 30)?

What was the end result of this miraculous deliverance (vs 31)?

“Sing for Joy”

Study: Exodus 15:1-21

Reading: Psalm 95:1-11

Memory: Proverbs 3:19

I grew up in a pretty strict Christian environment. More than once, I heard preachers putting a guilt trip on us teenagers for cheering loudly at ball games, but sitting through church without expressing excitement. At the same time it was taught (or maybe just understood in my mind) that any external expression of praise (except for those who shouted “Amen”) was wrong. The message I got was that we needed to be excited, but if showed we were excited, we were being charismatic and were sinning. Needless to say, this caused great confusion of how we were supposed to respond to any excitement about God and His Word.

As I have grown in my walk with the Lord, I have learned that different people respond to God in different ways. Some are much more expressive while others are much more subdued and reverential. There is not a one size fits all when it comes to rejoicing and physical expression. The importance is the choice that you make in your heart to see the great works of God and rejoice over them.

What Does the Bible Say?

Chapter 15 of Exodus is a chapter that recounts a song that was written about the defeat of the Egyptian army. The Israelites were filled with joy after their great victory and sang this song together to the Lord. They had gone from moments of great terror to the feeling of great triumph because God had been their salvation. They planned to continue to praise God and exalt him because nothing was impossible for Him. He was a “man of war,” a term for a great warrior who was mighty in battle. His name “The Lord” would be revered by all. The term for “The Lord” here was the Hebrew word “Yahweh” and it was a reference to the God of the Hebrews being the one and only God (vs 1-3).

Though the closeness of Pharaoh’s army had brought fear to the hearts of the Israelites, it was that same closeness that enticed the soldiers to follow the Israelites into the Red Sea. The regular soldiers and the chief officers in Pharaoh’s army were lost. They were buried in the sea when God let go of the barriers that had held the walls of water back. This

displayed the great and mighty power of God and displayed how He could defeat the strongest enemies of Israel. The Israelites had done nothing and really could do nothing in their own power and strength. The victory they gained was by the power and working of their mighty God. The Egyptians didn’t fear God even though God had done many mighty works during the ten plagues. This power of God caused the sea not only to part, but to collapse upon the Egyptians and to swallow them up (vs 4-10).

There was no one like God among all the other gods that the Egyptians followed and worshiped. He was holy and awesome in all that He did. He did not leave his people alone to fend for themselves, but He took care of them since they were His precious children. He had redeemed His people out of Egypt and had guided them safely from the land (vs 11-13).

Because of these mighty deeds, the strong nations in and around the Promise Land would now fear God as they would hear of His great works. These nations would be afraid of the Israelites and would allow their conquering of the Promise Land to be much easier. The events of the Red Sea allowed the Israelites to be greatly encouraged as they prepared to walk into the Promise Land. They knew they had nothing to fear because God was on their side (vs 14-19).

Miriam, the sister of Moses, led the women in dancing and a great celebration as the Israelites rejoiced over their deliverance. What a great period of time this had been for the Israelites. You think this joy would have lasted for months, but tomorrow we will be reminded how easy it is to forget the great things God has done in the past when we face new challenges in our lives (vs 20-21).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you take time to rejoice in God and celebrate the victories He has given you? Sometimes it is easy to think that since we should expect God to do great things, it shouldn’t surprise us when He does. While that may be true, we should not be hindered in our rejoicing about God and what He has done. Instead, our hearts should be continually filled with praise for Him. When there are life altering events where God’s power is revealed in a special way, this should be cause for great rejoicing. Instead of being subdued and moderate all the time, you need to let the work of God excite you and celebrate what He has done. Don’t be afraid to declare your excitement about who God is and what God has done in your life. Rejoicing in God and His work in you is a powerful tool in your life and a great encouragement to others around you.

Memorization

(review this week's memory verse)

Proverbs 3:1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, 2 for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. 3 Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. 7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. 8 It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. 9 Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; 10 then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. 11 My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof, 12 for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights. 13 Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, 14 for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. 15 She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. 16 Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. 17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. 18 She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed. 19 The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens;