

The celebration of Passover held great importance for the Jews of Jesus’ day. In fact, it was one of the three celebrations Jewish men were required to travel to Jerusalem to attend. Modern day Jews continue to celebrate this event. Because of its importance, we will explore the background for Passover.

The setting is Egypt. Moses has been away for forty years, but God has called him to return to Egypt to free the Hebrew (Israelite) slaves.

Read Exodus 6:1-8

God tries to assure Moses, but it seems an impossible task to him. Remember, Moses had grown up in the palace of the Pharaohs and knows their thinking. The Pharaoh wants huge statues and buildings erected in his honor. It takes thousands in a work force of men to produce such feats. Surely Pharaoh will not be willing to release these useful slaves. Yet Moses is given many promises. Seven times God says, “I will” in this passage. In **verses 6-8, underline** each of those “I will’s” in your Bible.

Let’s examine what things God will do. Write a two to four-word phrase after each “I will.” I will _____

I will _____

I will _____

I will _____

I will _____

I will _____

I will _____

Think of a time in your life when you faced what seemed like an impossible task. Maybe it wasn’t as major as Moses’ task, but it was major to you. Write about it and how God helped you through it.

At 80 years of age, with the audible call and empowerment of God, Moses moves on to fulfill his calling. But discouragements come. Not only does the Pharaoh disregard Moses’ request, but also the Israelites don’t believe him, and they complain because Pharaoh makes the work all the more backbreaking.

It takes some powerful signs to convince Pharaoh *and* the Israelites that God means business. Exodus 7:14 records the plague of blood in the Nile River. Skim the next chapters or subtitles in Exodus to write the remaining plagues.

Chapter 8 – Plague of _____
Plague of _____
Plague of _____

Chapter 9 – Plague on _____
 Plague of _____
 Plague of _____
Chapter 10 – Plague of _____
 Plague of _____

While each of these plagues has the element of a natural cause, the plagues start and stop at the precise time God says they will. God’s timing is always perfect. Most of the plagues are placed only upon the Egyptians. In spite of these dramatic scenes over a span of several months, Pharaoh still has a hard heart and refuses to release the Israelites.

The last plague, the plague of death to the first born of all Egyptian families, finally persuades the Pharaoh to give in to the demands of Moses. During this last sign, the Israelites are required to participate.

Read Exodus 12:21-32

The blood on their doorposts covers them in protection. Death “passes over” their homes. At last, the Israelite slaves are allowed to go free. What a time of rejoicing!

Check verse 37 to see how many Israelite men are freed. _____ men. When you add the women and children, there could well have been over 2,000,000 people. Can you imagine trying to lead a group that size plus animals and belongings as well?

God said, “I will” and He did – He did the impossible. Is it any wonder that in numerous passages of Scripture, God commanded the people to tell the story to their descendents? He also instructed them to have a lasting ordinance or ceremony to remember how He intervened in their lives to bring them out of slavery.

This event happened well over 3000 years ago, but Jews continue to celebrate Passover today. Likewise, it marks a significant event for us as Christians. Charlton Heston’s “The Ten Commandments” and Walt Disney’s “The Prince of Egypt” give testimony to our current day attachment to this miraculous story.

God still does amazing works of freeing people from things that enslave them today, such as the slavery of addictions, distorted relationships, or debilitating health. Have you seen God work a miracle in your life or someone else’s life? Write about it.

Write your prayer thoughts.
