

Read [Romans 1:25](#) and reflect on God's methods.

[Exodus 9](#): For all intents and purposes, it appears that things go from bad to worse for the Egyptians and for God's people. However, the end result is yet to be realized. Although Pharaoh relented he did not repent. Repentance requires reverence of God and acknowledgment of His awesome acts. Pharaoh calculated his monetary loss to be too great and underestimated his spiritual gain. God knew very well the grip monetary wealth has over people. Therefore, blessed are the poor in spirit. God gave the Israelites every advantage by making life so difficult. Read [Romans 8:27-29](#). This Thanksgiving Day thank God for all things ([1 Thessalonian 5:16-28](#)).

Thursday Pray for "My World"

- Neighbors • People who live around me.
- People at Work • Others God brings into my life. Begin to take note of specific needs around you and ask God what he wants you to do to help.
- Ask God to bring revival and a spiritual awakening to Branch County. Pray for the area churches and a greater spirit of unity and cooperation.
- Continue to pray for the nation, our national leaders and a revival in America.

Friday, Nov. 24: Read [Exodus 10-11](#)

[Exodus 10](#): Moses represented the face of God before Pharaoh. At the close of the chapter we read "Get out of my sight! Make sure you do not appear before me again! (v. 28). Pharaoh's response had to do with God hardening Pharaoh's heart. The judgment had already been set. Just as God told Adam and Eve that in the day they ate of the tree of good and evil they would surely die, even so Pharaoh died the day he chose to be his own god. God had already killed the gods of Egypt, the only god left was Pharaoh's own self will. Read [Luke 11:34-36](#) and contemplate how a person looks at things determines what is in their heart. Do you see yourself as god or God as God? Your actions will only follow suite.

In [Exodus 11](#), Moses was hot with anger that Pharaoh would not listen to him after all these signs. The Egyptians and surrounding world stood amazed that no matter what God would do Pharaoh refused to repent. Relent yes but repent no. As in [Romans 1:23-25](#) God gave him over to his own desires. The initial offer was repentance. Pharaoh could have let Israel go to worship God and return. However this required Pharaoh to deny his own gods. With God it is all or nothing. No other god before Him.

Pray for Our Missionaries

Juan & Adriana Palacios (Angola, Africa), **David & Miriam Trott** (Cochabamba, Bolivia), **Mario Bloise** (Argentina), **Dan & DeAnn Gerard** (San Antonio, TX), **Robert Newkirk** (Jesus Film), **Craig & Shelly Shafer** (Sentani, Indonesia), **Mike & Fran VanBruggen** (South Africa), **Sue Sanders** (Detroit, MI), **Matt Kooi** (Tijuana), **Daniel Jezonski** (Wycliffe), **Danielle Tucker** (France), **Andrew & Sara Williams**



Spiritual Disciplines

- *Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your reading each day.*
- *Read the chapters and underline any meaningful verses and take note of specific advice or wisdom gleaned from your reading.*
- *Note any unclear passages or teaching and seek insight, answers or help.*
- *Think about what you're reading. Ask:*
 1. *How does this apply to me?*
 2. *Are there any temptations to avoid, sins to confess, commands to obey or promises to claim?*
 3. *What insight do I gain on God, myself, others, or life?*
- *Ask God to show you any specific action you need to take as you read.*

Weekly Readings

Monday, Nov. 20: Read [Exodus 3](#), [Hebrews 13](#)

[Exodus 3](#) God speaks to Moses in response to the Israelites crying out to Him. He had seen their suffering but it is the crying out that God waits to respond to. We are told that God knows our concerns before we ask Him, but it is imperative that we pray. Read [Psalm 34:6](#) and [Matt. 5:3-11](#) and give thought to why the poor man cried and is blessed. God works to bring blessing to our lives but at times it seems to be the very opposite. Read [Romans 8:25-27](#) to understand this chapter. For who's benefit did God have Moses request only a three-day journey in the wilderness to make sacrifices? Was it Israel's or Pharaoh's benefit?(vs 18).

[Hebrews 13](#) gives a filter to understanding what we will be reading in Exodus. We see that the struggle they faced had much to do with their unwillingness to completely leave the world of slavery for a promised land. This promise comes from God; the trust and obedience must come from Israel. In like manner, we can only experience peace when we have peace with God. He is faithful even when we are not, and He will not allow us peace until we fully trust Him. What was true for Israel in the physical sense is true for us in the Spiritual sense. For 40 years God provided for them but they never had peace. Let's not be like that where God provides for us physically but we do not enjoy his peace. Read [Psalm 95](#) to prepare a thankful heart for Thanksgiving Day.

Monday Pray for:

1. *My relationship with God.*
2. *My life roles*
3. *My personal needs/weak areas*
4. *Goals and objectives*

Tuesday, Nov. 21: Read [Exodus 4-5](#)

[Exodus 4](#): God equipped Moses by first giving him an identity that was different from his upbringing. He trained him with the best academics and military skills of the age. Then God sends him to the far side of the wilderness to tend another man's flock. After 40 years, God calls to him from a burning bush and commissions him to return to Egypt. With a shepherd's staff and a humbled heart Moses returns. He returns to a people who have also been humbled and are now ready to be led. The signs they performed indicated God's authority. However, it wasn't until "they heard that the Lord was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped," (v. 31). Our God given skills and gifts will never lead people to worship. It only comes when they hear God is concerned about them and their misery. Read [John 3:16-17](#), [Matthew 11:28-30](#).

[Exodus 5](#): Pharaoh asks an interesting question, "Who is the Lord that I should let Israel go?" What happen that the Lord was no longer revered in Egypt. When Jacob died there was a great mourning and ALL went out with Joseph on a three-hundred mile journey to bury him ([Genesis 50](#)). Since then Egypt no longer saw Israel as a Spiritual blessing but only as a necessary evil to run its economic engine. While the people of Israel prospered in numbers they became a threat to be controlled instead of a blessing to be honored. Christianity seems to go through similar changes as well. The faith can be seen first as a spiritual blessing in both individuals lives and also in the life of a country. However, after a period of time when life is no longer being threatened, the once spiritual blessing is seen as only for its monetary blessing. The spiritual can be discarded. The benefits from the Christian faith can be extracted and the faith discarded. So people think. God is going to show Israel and the world that it is not so. Read [Matthew 5:13](#), [Hebrews 6:4](#) and think about the responsibility that comes to those who experience God's grace, who witness His blessing and yet do not stay the course.

Pray for family and friends by name.

Wednesday Nov. 22: Read [Exodus 6-7](#)

[Exodus 6](#): Moses does as he is instructed and tells the Israelites that God will deliver them, but they did not listen because the burden placed on them by Pharaoh was so great. God then told Moses to instead go to Pharaoh and tell him to let the Israelites go. However, Moses protests. He argues that he does not have persuasive speech (uncircumcised tongue, meaning his speech was no different than anyone else's). It is not our ability to persuade that makes the difference but about going and proclaiming. God delivers. Read [1Corinthians 2:3-5](#).

In [Zechariah 4:5-7](#) we read that the angel reminds his prophet that it is God who

delivers, not might nor strength. As God promised deliverance to the nation of Israel from Egypt so in the spiritual world we are given deliverance, no longer having to serve the flesh. Although we can be declared free from sin at salvation, the enemy will try to inflict greater hardship upon our lives so we remain prisoners. Our enemy is no less real than Pharaoh was to the Israelites. Our victory is no less real as well. ([Romans 6:12-14](#))

[Exodus 7](#): Pharaoh refused to let God's people go and instead placed on them a greater burden, harder work, To Moses' and the Israelites' frustration, God prolonged their suffering to show His power to deliver. As God's spokesman, Moses challenged the gods of Pharaoh. God is not weakened nor made tired by the battle. Bring it on! said God. Moses and the Israelites might not have been so happy that God would use this opportunity to show the world His glory, but this is God's show, not theirs. With that said, God was also preparing the people for the exodus. They had adopted much of the Egyptian lifestyle that was in contrast to God and some cleansing needed to be done. Read [2 Peter 3:8-10](#). Persecution refines the believer and offers repentance to the lost.

Wednesday: Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church (Consider fasting one, two, or all meals this day.)

- a. Pastors: Pray for God's grace and guidance in Pastor Jim and Pastor David's ministries and families. Pray for Linda Penn in her work at BGCC.
- b. Worship: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.
- c. Fellowship: Ask God to deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers.
- d. Discipleship: ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people. Pray for the children and youth ministries here at BGCC.
- e. Outreach: Pray that God will use Bethel Gilead to make a positive impact on our community so that many would come to Christ.
- f. Future Faith Goals: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future. Pray for God's clear leading in 2017 and beyond.

Thursday, Nov. 23: Read [Exodus 8-9](#)

[Exodus 8](#): It is time to show the Israelites that there is no God other than Jehovah. God takes down the Egyptian gods one by one and also gives them their fill at the same time. In chapter 7, the first plague, turning the Nile to blood, was a judgment against Apis, the god of the Nile, Isis, goddess of the Nile, and Khnum, guardian of the Nile. The Nile was also believed to be the bloodstream of Osiris, who was reborn each year when the river flooded. Well, now she is dead. What about the frogs? Frogs were thought to be sacred and not to be killed. God had the frogs invade every part of the homes of the Egyptians, and when the frogs died, their stinking bodies were heaped up in offensive piles all through the land. Second god is dead and counting.