



# Thru the Bible in 2012

*The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God endures forever. Isaiah 40:8*

## Ladies for Jesus Tuesday Bible Study Ponderings

### Readings for January 30, 2012 – February 5, 2012

Emailed: Tuesday, February 7, 2012

For our ponderings, consider the questions listed below in regards to what we have read during the days of Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.

- **(Job 38-39)** God asked Job several questions about His creation in order to demonstrate how limited Job's knowledge really was. God was not seeking answers from Job. Instead, He was getting Job to recognize and submit to God's power and sovereignty. Only then could he hear what God was really saying to him. In what ways are you not submitting to God's power and sovereignty in your own life?
- **(Job 40:2-5)** How do you argue or criticize the Almighty God? Do you demand answers when things don't go your way, you lose a job, someone close to you is ill or dies, finances are tight, you fail, or unexpected challenges occur? The next time you are tempted to complain to God, consider how much He loves you. Give God a chance to reveal His greater purposes for you, but remember that they may unfold over the course of your life and not at the moment you desire.
- **(Job 42:8-10)** After receiving much criticism, Job was still able to pray for his three friends. It is difficult to forgive someone who has accused us of wrongdoing, but Job did. Are you praying for those who have hurt you? Can you forgive them? Follow the actions of Job as he was obedient to God by praying for those who have wronged him. You will be surprised how your attitude towards that person will change through this act of obedience.
- **(Exodus 3)** Moses made excuses because he felt inadequate for the job God asked him to do. It was natural for him to feel that way because *he was inadequate all by himself*. But God wasn't asking Moses to work alone. He offered other resources to help (God Himself, Aaron, and the ability to do miracles). God often calls us to do tasks that seem too difficult, but He doesn't ask us to do them alone. God offers us His resources – just as He did to Moses. What task has God called you to do lately? In what ways have you been hiding behind your inadequacies? Focus beyond yourself to the great resources available and recall that God doesn't call the equipped – He equips the called.
- **(Exodus 7:17)** God dramatically turned the water of the Nile into blood to show Pharaoh who He was. Do you sometimes wish for miraculous signs so you can be sure about God? God has given you the miracle of eternal life through your faith in Him, something Pharaoh never obtained. This is a quiet miracle and, though less evident right now, just as extraordinary as water turned to blood. Don't let the desire for spectacular signs cause you to ignore the more subtle miracles God is working every day.
- **(Exodus 8:19)** Some people think, "if only I could see a miracle, I could believe in God." God gave Pharaoh just such an opportunity. When gnats infested Egypt, even the magicians agreed that this was God's work (stating it was the "finger of God.") – but still Pharaoh refused to believe. He was stubborn and stubbornness can blind a person from the truth. Even when we have accepted Jesus as our Savior stubbornness can hinder our relationship with Him. How is stubbornness affecting your relationship with God? When you rid yourself of stubbornness you may be surprised of the abundant evidence of God's work in your life.

- **(Exodus 8:25-29)** Pharaoh wanted the Hebrews to compromise. He would allow them to sacrifice, but only if they would do it nearby. God's requirement, however, was firm: The Hebrews had to leave Egypt. Sometimes people urge believers to compromise and give only partial obedience to God's commands. But commitment and obedience to God cannot be negotiated. In what ways have you been convinced by others to compromise what God has guided you to do in your life? When it comes to obeying God, half measures won't do.
- **(Exodus 8:26)** This was the fifth time God sent Moses back to Pharaoh with the demand "Let my people go." By this time, Moses may have been tired and discouraged, but he continued to obey. Is there a difficult conflict you must face again and again? Don't give up when you know what is the right thing to do. As Moses discovered persistence is rewarded.
- **(Exodus 10:2)** God told Moses that His miraculous experiences with Pharaoh should be retold to his descendants. What stories Moses had to tell! Living out one of the greatest dramas in Biblical history, he witnessed events few people would ever see. It is important to tell our children about God's work in our past and to help them see what He is doing right now. What are the turning points in your life where God intervened? What is God doing for you now? Your stories will form the foundations of your children's belief in God.
- **(Exodus 12:11)** Eating the Passover feast while dressed for travel was a sign of the Hebrews' faith. Although they were not yet free, they were to prepare themselves, for God had said He would lead them out of Egypt. Their preparation was an act of faith. What promises has God given to you that seem unlikely? In what ways are you preparing yourself for these promises to be fulfilled? Preparing ourselves for the fulfillment of God's promises, however unlikely they may seem, demonstrates our faith.
- **(Exodus 14:15)** The Lord told Moses to stop praying and get moving! ***Prayer must have a vital place in our lives, but there is also a place for action.*** Sometimes we know what to do, but we pray for more guidance as an excuse to postpone doing it. Have you been praying about something that God has answered the prayer with instructions of what you should do? If we know what we should do, then it is time to put feet to our prayers – stop praying and MOVE!!



Egypt was a large country, but most of the population lived along the banks of the Nile River. This 3,000-mile waterway was truly a river of life for the Egyptians. It made life possible in a land that was mostly desert by providing water for drinking, farming, bathing, and fishing. Egyptian society was a ribbon of civilization lining the banks of this life source, rarely reaching very far into the surrounding desert. Without the Nile's water, Egypt could not have existed. Imagine Pharaoh's dismay when Moses turned this sacred river to blood!



The festival of Passover was to be an annual holiday in honor of the night when the Lord "passed over" the homes of the Israelites. The Hebrews followed God's instructions by smearing the blood of a lamb on the doorframes of their homes. That night the firstborn son of every family that did not have blood on the doorframes was killed. The lamb had to be killed in order to get the blood that would protect them. This foreshadowed the blood of Christ, the Lamb of God, who gave His blood for the sins of all people. Inside their homes, the Israelites ate a meal of roast lamb, bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Unleavened bread could be made quickly because the dough did not have to rise. Thus, they could leave at any time. Bitter herbs signified the bitterness of slavery.