

# Exodus continues history of Israel from Genesis

If you are following the schedule to read the Bible in a year that was in the Tuesday, Dec. 27, issue of *The Goodland Star-News*, it will be time to start reading Exodus Wednesday. After Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery (Genesis chapters 37-47), his father Jacob and brothers joined him in Egypt when events led him to being made prime minister during a time of famine. Joseph was in charge of stockpiling a surplus of food before the famine and then rationing the food to the people during it.

He had his family join him in Egypt so he could be sure they were fed. The family was the beginning of the nation of Israel. By the time that is recounted in Exodus, the "nation" of people had grown and had been made slaves to the Egyptians.

God chose Moses to lead the people out of Egypt and then revealed to him the meaning of His name. Exodus 3:13, 14 says, "Nevertheless, Moses said to the true God, 'Suppose I am now come to the sons of Israel and I do say to them, 'The God of your forefathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is his name?'" What shall I say to them?.' At this God said to Moses: 'I shall prove to be what I shall prove to be.' And he added: 'This is what you are to say to the



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sons of Israel, 'I Shall Prove To Be has sent me to you.'"

The significance of the meaning of that name is emphasized in Isaiah 55:10, 11: "For just as the pouring rain descends, and the snow, from the heavens and does not return to that place, unless it actually saturates the earth and makes it produce and sprout, and seed is actually given to the sower and bread to the eater, so my word that goes forth from my mouth will prove to be. It will not return to me without results, but it will certainly do that in which I have delighted, and it will have certain success in that for which I have sent it."

When God says he will do some-

His representatives to speak to Pharaoh, who stubbornly refused to let the Israelites go into the wilderness to celebrate a festival to God.

Many people are familiar with the "10 plagues;" these were God's way of showing the stubborn Pharaoh who is really in charge. The plagues, miracles, included turning the water in the Nile River to blood and then all the water in the land to blood, frogs, gnats, boils, hail and the final plague, putting to death all of the Egyptians' firstborns.

God gave the Israelites instructions to mark their homes, so when the angel went to kill the firstborns, he would "pass over" the Israelite homes. Those things became the

customs of the Passover, still celebrated by many Jews today.

After the 10th plague, Pharaoh finally sent the Israelites away but then wanted his slaves back and went after them. So God parted the Red Sea to let them across but then closed it over the Egyptian army, a miracle well-known still today and proof that God can do whatever it takes to fulfill His word.

However, shortly after this grand miracle, the Israelites forgot who

was really leading them and began complaining about being in the wilderness with nothing to eat. God sent manna, a bread that miraculously showed up each day, to feed the people (chapter 16).

Moses received God's laws at Mount Sinai, and the nation of Israel entered a covenant with God. Part of that law was the 10 commandments, found in Exodus 20:2-17.

Many details of the laws the na-

tion was to live by are given in the next several chapters, along with instructions to build the tabernacle, a house of worship that the people moved with them as they traveled toward the Promised Land.

Reading about the grand events of Exodus can help build our faith in God, who is capable of whatever He chooses to do, certainly of helping His people today. It is well worth the effort of making time to read every day.

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