



FEBRUARY 2020 | DAY 15

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 46
Genesis 47
Psalms 15

After many dark, desolate years, God restores life and joy. He sends Jacob down to Egypt and into the arms of his long-lost, beloved son. Jacob discovers that the son he presumed dead is now the source of life for many because Joseph trusted God's wisdom. When famine pushes Egypt and Canaan to the brink of starvation, Joseph provides grain to the surrounding nations so that they too "may live and not die" (Gen. 47:19), just as he had done for his family (Gen. 42:1, 43:8).

In Genesis 12, God promised Abraham that his family would become a blessing to every "family" or "nation" on Earth, and that anyone who blesses Abraham and his family will themselves be blessed (Gen. 12:2-3). God also says he will "curse" or "treat lightly" those who treat Abraham's family with contempt. It's common to see this as God vowing to oppose anyone who opposes Abraham's genetic line or the people of Israel. However, in the context of Genesis 12:1-3, God is talking about his promised blessing being extended to all the world and guaranteeing that it will happen.

The idea is that those who refuse to partner with God or try to stop or "curse" his plan to bless all nations will ultimately fail. God will bless those who bless until his good work is complete. Pay close attention as the story about Abraham's family unfolds because God will also oppose them when they reject his blessing.

Today's reading shows that promise from God in action when the pharaoh gives the good land of Goshen to Jacob's family (which is also Abraham's), and Jacob responds by blessing Pharaoh.



FEBRUARY 2020 | DAY 15 - CONTINUED

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SCRIPTURE

Genesis 46
Genesis 47
Psalms 15

As Jacob's life comes to an end, he displays increased confidence in God's covenant promises. He urges Joseph not to bury him in Egypt but to return his body to the land of his ancestors. Jacob's insistence reveals his conviction that God will one day give that land to his family, even if he won't live to see it. God often works slowly, but he always keeps his promises!



FEBRUARY 2020 | DAY 16

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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SCRIPTURE

Genesis 48
Genesis 49
Genesis 50
Psalm 16

Today, we come to the end of the Genesis narrative. Congratulations on reading and thinking through the first book of the biblical story! Watch today's video to review everything you've learned so far.

The final chapters of Genesis draw the book's key storylines to a close. Jacob welcomes Joseph's half-Egyptian children into the covenant family. When Jacob dies, Joseph buries him alongside the other patriarchs in Canaan, just as he promised. Joseph reassures his guilt-stricken brothers that he harbors no ill will toward them. What they meant for evil, God turned into life-saving good.

Jacob's deathbed blessing foreshadows what will happen to his sons' families. Both Judah and Joseph receive a blessing of abundance and authority among their brothers. But only Judah is chosen to rule outside the family of Israel. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and now Judah carry God's promise to bless the nations through them.

Which leaves us wondering: What's next? Genesis ends with Abraham's family down in Egypt and all of God's covenant promises left unfinished. What will be the next stage of God's rescue plan?



FEBRUARY 2020 | DAY 17

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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SCRIPTURE

[Exodus 1](#)
[Exodus 2](#)
[Exodus 3](#)
[Psalms 17](#)

The book of Exodus opens on a high note. Jacob's family survives famine and lives to enjoy an Edenic blessing in Egypt. They live out God's commission to be fruitful and multiply, filling the land. But just eight verses later, the narrative takes an ominous turn. A new pharaoh, with no respect for Joseph or his family, ascends to power. What seemed like a new Eden turns out to be a new Babylon: a brutal, oppressive empire that redefines evil as good.

Israel's multiplication in Egypt is a good thing, but Pharaoh calls it a bad thing. The Egyptian ruler drowns babies to control the Israelite population growth and brutally enslaves the people. They cry out for help from God, who intervenes to rescue them.

While Pharaoh anxiously focuses on dominating Israel's men, a series of brave women foil his schemes. The Hebrew midwives Shiphrah and Puah, Moses' mother and sister, Pharaoh's daughter and her maid servant, and Zipporah: Count them up, and you'll see seven women who defy Pharaoh's oppression, protect life, and rescue Moses, God's chosen deliverer of Israel.

When God first calls Moses to lead a courageous rescue mission, Moses is reluctant. And his people aren't particularly thrilled about him either. But God promises to give Moses everything he will need. Watch today's video to see God's deliverance of his people and learn about the literary design of the first half of Exodus.



FEBRUARY 2020 | DAY 18

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 4
Exodus 5
Exodus 6
Psalm 18

Today's reading opens in the middle of a back-and-forth argument between Moses and God. God has given Moses a huge job and everything he needs to accomplish it. Moses has resisted. God has accommodated. Notice where God is merciful and flexible with Moses—and where God won't budge.

As you read, pay attention to how the author uses the concepts of work and service—two meanings of the Hebrew word 'avad, as you'll learn in today's video. God wants to set people free and invite them into a way of working and resting that leads to flourishing and true life. But Pharaoh wants the Israelites to serve him in chains. He doesn't care about them. He wants to consume them.

As the dramatic confrontation between God and Pharaoh escalates, the narrative cuts away from the action to give us ... a genealogy? While genealogies can feel random and confusing, these family trees play a key role in the story. Not only do genealogies testify to God's faithfulness from generation to generation, they also help us follow priestly and royal lines throughout Israel's history.

The genealogy in Exodus 6 reveals that Aaron, the father of Israel's priesthood, married a woman from the tribe of Judah, Israel's royal family line. All of Israel's priests, then, descend from the merging of the priestly and kingly lines! Who knew a list of names could pack such a theological punch?



FEBRUARY 2020 | DAY 19

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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SCRIPTURE

Exodus 7
Exodus 8
Exodus 9
Psalms 19

The simmering tension between God and Pharaoh finally boils over. God sends Moses and Aaron to confront the oppressive Egyptian king with a simple message: “Let my people go.” God reinforces his demand with powerful signs, such as turning Aaron’s staff into a snake—a clear hyperlink to the enemy in Eden. Here, God helps humans control the serpent. Moses’ power over the snake-staff reflects God’s power over snake-like Pharaoh.

The staff is just the beginning. Pharaoh’s refusal to free the Israelites triggers the full force of God’s liberating power. The narrative describes one divine plague after another with language that recalls the waters of the flood. Creation collapses as chaos surges over the earth. Once again, God enacts this cosmic de-creation after hearing the victims’ outcry. This story also recalls the de-creation of Sodom and Gomorrah, as both stories include a human mediator between God and the people. Where Abraham interceded for Lot’s safety, Moses now intercedes to bring judgment upon Egypt.

With each wave of catastrophe that breaks over Egypt, God displays his incomparable power. But this power has a life-giving purpose. The biblical narrative describes each of God’s actions against Egypt as an ‘ot—a sign that points to a larger reality, as we’ll see in the video. God’s signs invite both Israelites and Egyptians to acknowledge him as the true ruler of the universe. Pharaoh rejects this invitation and hardens his heart against God. How many more chances will God give the defiant Egyptian king?



FEBRUARY 2020 | DAY 20

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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SCRIPTURE

[Exodus 10](#)
[Exodus 11](#)
[Exodus 12](#)
[Psalms 20](#)

Despite Egypt buckling under the pressure of God's liberating power, Pharaoh doubles down on his cruelty. His own advisors plead with him to let Israel go, but Pharaoh would rather watch his nation collapse than yield to God.

So God gives Pharaoh over to the consequences of his own rebellion. Though God hardens Pharaoh's heart, this does not violate Pharaoh's will —by this point, Pharaoh has already hardened his own heart multiple times. God simply strengthens Pharaoh's resolve to follow his own desires to their bitter end.

The showdown reaches a climax when God turns Pharaoh's evil back on himself. Because Pharaoh killed the firstborn sons of Israel, God now requires the lives of Egypt's firstborn sons. But unlike Pharaoh, God offers a way to escape that death. God promises to pasakh (a rare Hebrew verb we explore in today's video) any home with the blood of a spotless lamb painted on its doorposts.

The night of Israel's rescue births a new people. This event, known as Passover, marks the start of their new calendar and their national story. For generations to come, the people will share a symbolic meal to commemorate God's protection and liberation. Out of the deluge of death and darkness, a new creation dawns.



FEBRUARY 2020 | DAY 21

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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SCRIPTURE

Exodus 13
Exodus 14
Exodus 15
Psalm 21

Instead of a straight path to freedom, God leads his people up from Egypt into the harsh desert. The roundabout route exposes the Israelites to thirst and scorching heat—and to enemy forces. When Pharaoh catches wind of their vulnerable position, he rallies his army in pursuit. The Israelites panic. With Pharaoh's chariots thundering towards them and the treacherous sea behind them, they're cornered, and they turn on Moses. Has he brought them out to the desert to die?

But where the Israelites and Egyptians see a dead end, God opens a new path. His presence forms a protective barrier behind his people, separating—as he did on the first day of creation—the light illuminating Israel's camp from the darkness shrouding Egypt's chariots. The turbulent sea divides, giving way to dry land for the Israelites to walk through the sea toward freedom. As a new day breaks over the horizon, the chaotic waters swallow Egypt's army while God's chosen people watch safely from the shore.

The Israelites erupt in praise. Their song is filled with vivid imagery and figurative language that recounts the exodus through a new lens—one that highlights God's faithful love and justice.

This pattern of a long narrative followed by a capstone poem or song repeats throughout the biblical story. Through the evocative language of poetry, the biblical authors invite readers to experience the story in a new way and reflect on God's character. Who is like this God of majesty and liberating power?