



“Reading the Bible Together”

Issue 2.

Book of Exodus: The great journey that shapes a nation.

March 2009.

How's it going?

Well, we're three weeks in; how's it going? Hopefully, in amongst everything else you have been able to find time most days to spend time with the Scriptures and with our Lord. Chatting to people I'm really encouraged by the sheer number involved. If you're reading this and wonder whether its too late to start: it's never too late. You can get a copy of the first sheet from the website and either catch up, say by reading two days at a time, or just amend the dates according and go at your own pace. What's important is that as many people as are able can feel involved.

A few words about motivation and encouragement as we journey on:

- Try and find a regular time each day to sit down and spend time with your Bible. Try and make it a part of your day rather than trying to fit it in in-between other things.
- Try to set yourself small goals or challenges – “I wonder what's going to happen next...” Skip and have a look. Whatever helps you to remain open minded and inspired, especially when we come to some of the heavier stuff (eg. The details of the tent of meeting at the end of Exodus)
- At such times try different approaches to engage with the Scripture – don't just read the text but try and imagine yourself there. Ask yourself such questions, “Well, I wonder what such and such would have looked like?” “If I was standing there what can I see?” And any other questions that help you engage with the text.
- Try and listen for what God might want to share with you: “I find this all boring.” Ask yourself, “Why, and what does it say about me and what inspires me, as well as about the text?”

Try to enjoy still this greatest love story ever to be told.

Your Journal:

I've been really encouraged how many are keeping a journal of their thoughts and feelings as well as their observations and questions. Try and keep this going. Once again can I stress try to keep our Journal writing open avoiding, if you can, words of judgement like, “I hope I've got this right,” or “I've got this wrong.”

The Reading the Bible Together Gatherings:

Thank you to all those who've turned out to the gatherings. At the gathering on Wed 18th Feb a dozen or so came together and shared much discussion around Creation and Mr Dawkins. Personally, I was greatly encouraged by people's level of thought and reflection on the matter. We had other discussions around – “why did God leave the that tree there?” And only really towards the end did we get time to begin to talk about Abraham.

The next gatherings will take place in Church on:

- the first Wednesday morning of the month @ 9.00 till 10.00 over a cup of Coffee
- a Wednesday evening in the middle of the month, Wed 18th March @ 7.45 till 9.00.

Anyone and everyone is very welcome!

Why not contribute to the Blog?

If you're on the Internet why not think about reading or contributing to the Blog? We've had a few problems setting this up but Martin has been working hard on it and it should now be working. To access the Blog you need:

- To send Rosemary or Martin an e:mail at the Church Office with your e:mail address
- Martin will then send you “an invite to join.” This is to stop just anyone accessing the site.
- Sign up to a Google Account if you don't already have one.

- Then sign up to the Blog and read or type away.

Go to the Church website: www.standrewscongresbury.org if you have any problems or give the Church Office a ring (01934) 833126.

Background to the Book of Exodus:

During the month we will be coming to the end of our reading through Genesis. I hope many of the stories of the Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) have inspired you. They always make me think not just of characters of long ago but of my own human condition for although communication, technology, and culture may have changed out of all recognition human nature hasn't changed that much in three thousand years: we still all love, hope, fear, laugh, cry, and fall short of the love that God has for us.

Towards the middle of the month we are going to begin looking at the Book of Exodus. The Exodus, the story of God's liberation of Israel from slavery to freedom cannot be underplayed as in some ways the key way of Israel understanding their relationship with our Lord. It is not just a historical event but a story which is always present in the mind of Israel even to today. As Christians we may well want to claim that, of course, all Scripture points to Jesus as the Christ, which it does, but even He lives out in that sense His own "Exodus" for us, liberating us from sin and death. So it cannot be underestimated how important these stories are.

I hope we all get a lot out of them.

Scheme of Reading:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Reference:</u>	<u>Date:</u>	<u>Reference:</u>
Sun 1 st Feb	-----	Mon 23 rd Mar	Exod 12:1 - 12:30
Mon 2 nd Feb	Gen 1:1 - 2:3	Tues 24 th Mar	Exod 12:31 - 12:51
Tues 3 rd Feb	Gen 2:4 - 3:24	Wed 25 th Mar	Exod 13:1 - 13:22
Sun 1 st Mar	-----	Thurs 26 th Mar	Exod 14:1 - 14:31
Mon 2 nd Mar	Gen 35:1 - 36:43	Fri 27 th Mar	Exod 15:1 - 15:27
Tues 3 rd Mar	Gen 37:1 - 37:36	Sat 28 th Mar	Exod 16:1 - 16:36
Wed 4 th Mar	Gen 38:1 - 38:30	Sun 29 th Mar	-----
Thurs 5 th Mar	Gen 39:1 - 39:23	Mon 30 th Mar	Exod 17:1 - 18:27
Fri 6 th Mar	Gen 40:1 - 40:23	Tues 31 st Mar	Exod 19:1 - 19:25
Sat 7 th Mar	Gen 41:1 - 41:57	Wed 1 st Apr	Exod 20:1 - 20:21
Sun 8 th Mar	-----	Thurs 2 nd Apr	Exod 20:22 - 21:36
Mon 9 th Mar	Gen 42:1 - 43:34	Fri 3 rd Apr	Exod 22:1 - 22:31
Tues 10 th Mar	Gen 44:1 - 45:28	Sat 4 th Apr	Exod 23:1 - 23:33
Wed 11 th Mar	Gen 46:1 - 47:31	Sun 5 th Apr	(Palm Sunday - Holy Week)
Thurs 12 th Mar	Gen 48:1 - 48:22	Mon 6 th Apr	Exod 24:1 - 25:40
Fri 13 th Mar	Gen 49:1 - 49:33	Wed 8 th Apr	Exod 28:1 - 29:46
Sat 14 th Mar	Gen 50:1 - 50:26	Tues 7 th Apr	Exod 26:1 - 27:21
Sun 15 th Mar	-----	Thurs 9 th Apr	Exod 30:1 - 31:18
Mon 16 th Mar	Exod 1:1 - 2:25	Fri 10 th Apr	Exod 32:1 - 33:6
Tues 17 th Mar	Exod 3:1 - 4:17	Sat 11 th Apr	Exod 33:7 - 33:23
Wed 18th Mar	Exod 4:18 - 5:21	Sun 12 th Apr	(Easter Day)
(Next Bible Together Meeting)		Mon 13 th Apr	Exod 34:1 - 34:35
Thurs 19 th Mar	Exod 5:22 - 7:7	Tues 14 th Apr	Exod 35:1 - 36:7
Fri 20 th Mar	Exod 7:8 - 8:32	Wed 15th Apr	Exod 36:8 - 37:29
Sat 21 st Mar	Exod 9:1 - 11:10	(Next Bible Together Meeting)	
Sun 22 nd Mar	-----	Thurs 16 th Apr	Exod 38:1 - 39:31