



## Bible Reading Plan : 40 Days on Justice

13<sup>th</sup> August 2018 to 17<sup>th</sup> August 2018

2018.8.13

### Day 11 > God Promise Deliverance

**Read > Exodus 5:1-6:12**

**Contemplate >** In verse 5 Pharaoh says that the people have become numerous, and so they should not stop working. How does this link back to the fear of Pharaoh and the Egyptians in Exodus 1 that led to the Israelites oppression? What then is the basis of Pharaoh's continued oppression of the people? Why did Pharaoh take away the straw for making the bricks? What was he trying to prove? What effect did taking away the straw have; on the people, on their relationship with Moses, and their relationship with Pharaoh? What ways do unjust rulers sometimes use their power today to reinforce subjugation and to destroy people's allegiance to leaders who might lead them to freedom? Were God's plans at all changed by Pharaoh's reaction? What does this tell us about God's intentions towards justice and liberation even when circumstances are getting worse and human rulers are intensifying their oppression? What do you think the link is between redemption and judgement in 6:6? What does this tell us about how God works with oppressor and oppressed in situations of injustices?

2018.8.14

### Day 12 > God Rescues His People I

**Read > Exodus 11:1-13:22**

**Contemplate >** How is God's judgement of Egypt linked with Israel's redemption? How does the attitude of the Egyptians that Moses prophesies in verse 8 compare with the attitude in Exodus 1? Why do you think God wanted to bring the Egyptians to a point of humility before the Israelites? How do you think God's judgement of the Egyptians might have changed if they had repented? Could repentance have led to redemption for the Egyptians? Why do you think the Passover was necessary? What does the Passover indicate about whether the Israelites were also deserving of judgement? Should that give the Israelites any grounds for rejoicing in God Judging the Egyptians?

2018.8.15

### Day 13 > God Rescues His People II

**Read > Exodus 14:1-15:21**

**Contemplate >** How much faith did the Israelites have that God could rescue them from Pharaoh, even after all the miracles and they had already left Egypt? Why do you think that the Israelites were more afraid of Pharaoh than trusting of God? In verse 15, why do you think God asks Moses why they were crying out to him? Given that God had promised to lead them out of Egypt and onto the Promised Land so many times? What do you think God expected of them instead? When we live with or under situations of injustice or unrighteousness how easy is it to see God's plan and ability to bring about change? What fears get in the way of us working with God towards justice? What specific injustices are you aware of that you have not acted to change because you are afraid that the enemy is stronger than God?



2018.8.16

### Day 14 > Esther as Liberator of Her People I

**Read > Esther 3:1-4:17**

**Contemplate >** Haman and Agagite was a descendant of the Amalekites.

Mordecai was a Benjaminite. Their peoples had a long history of hatred. Read Deuteronomy 25:17-19 and 1 Samuel 15, why didn't Mordecai bow before Haman? Is Mordecai's choice not to bow, like the actions of the midwives in Exodus 1, an act of civil disobedience? How does Haman use Mordecai not bowing to him as an excuse to destroy the Jews? Can you think of examples where modern governments have used various excuses to implement oppressive or otherwise unpopular policies? In Esther 4:11, 16 Esther highlights the possible consequences of speaking up for her people. How much do you think that fear of the consequences of speaking prevent us from speaking up against injustice? In 4:13-14, Mordecai tells Esther that she has been raised up "for such a time as this". In what ways had God placed you, your family, your community, the nation in a position "for such a time as this"? How can we use the influence we have in our immediate circles, in the community, in the nation and the world to speak up against injustice and oppression? What might the consequences be if we don't speak up (Esther 4:13)?

2018.8.17

### Day 15 > Esther as Liberator of Her People II

**Read > Esther 5:1-6:14**

**Contemplate >** God is not mentioned in the book of Esther. However, at the end of yesterday's reading, Esther asked Mordecai and the Jews to fast for three days.

Given the rule that nobody could approach the King unless they were called (Esther 4:11), and that the king just happened to hear the account of Mordecai saving his life during this time (Esther 6:1-3), what do you think the effect of the prayer and fasting was? Why do you think that Esther did not ask for the king to save her people straight away, but instead held the two dinners? What can we learn about being strategic and patient in fighting injustice from Esther's strategy?