

Russell Kelfer

**Moses:
The Wonderful
Ways of God**

715-A

Series: God's Living Legends (Part 1)



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The Wonderful Ways of God

Lord,

Creator of heaven and earth, loving friend, and the One who spoke the worlds into being, the One who saves our tears in a bottle, the One who numbers the very hairs of our head, the One who has gone to prepare a place for us so that when He comes again He can receive us unto Himself. Even our Lord, Jesus Christ, we worship You. We come into Your presence together, Father, acknowledging that apart from You we have no power, we have no wisdom, we have no life. But, in Christ, we have all things.

And our prayer this morning, Father, is that You would speak to our hearts, stir them, encourage them, and cause us, Father, to leave this place with a fresh vision of who our Savior is. Grant us this morning, a better understanding of the wonderful ways of our wonderful God.

In Jesus' Name we ask it.

Amen.

We're calling them Living Legends. They are the men and women God has chosen out of all the men and women who have ever lived, to engrave carefully upon the canvas of the Word of God. And as we look at life through the lens of their lives, we see pictures rush to the surface of the character of God, of the character of man, and of the miraculous ways that our loving God changes us.

We have been looking and calling them Living Legends for several weeks now. And they are living, aren't they, because though they are dead, they are still alive. Think about it. Adam is very much alive, isn't he? I mean, the impact of his life has left its mark on planet earth. Life is not the same physically, emotionally or spiritually, because Adam lived.

Cain and Abel haven't died either, have they? Every time a

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man or woman is faced with a decision of whether or not to come to God on God's terms, or whether to go his own way, Cain and Abel cry out, and say, "We're very much alive."

Lot is still alive. Every temptation that comes our way to pitch our tent toward Sodom, to turn our eyes to the glamour of this world, causes that still small voice within us to say, "Wait a minute." Do you remember Frank Sinatra who said, "He did it his way?" And you remember at the end of his life, a lonely hermit with nothing to show for his life. He's still alive. He speaks to us today.

So, the legends live on. We sense failure in our lives and Ishmael cries out that the old things of life really do work. We get discouraged and Jacob cries out and says, "God, changed even me." And we get encouraged. Certainly, Joseph is still alive. Joseph speaks to us as we see a life that faced rejection, persecution, separation and hardship and yet, at the end of his life be able to triumphantly say, "You meant evil unto me, but God meant it for good." We see a man who was able to stand before the most powerful man in all of the universe and be able to look him in the eye, and say "It is not in me, meet my God!"

Living Legends—lives that speak directly from the heart of God to the heart of man, through the word of God. And this morning, we turn another page and we open another chapter and we begin another look at a whole new kind of man. The kind of man God is looking for. A man that God is going to turn into a leader and He's going to do it exactly the way you and I wouldn't, which is exactly what this lesson is all about.

His name incidently is Moses. And at the very beginning of his life, you see emerge this totally different kind of scenario. And you begin to see this totally different way that God works. His ways, the wonderful ways of God. That's the subject of this lesson, and incidentally, I would remind you at the outset, they are oh so much higher than ours.

Last week, we came to the end of the life of Joseph. We saw the restoration of his brothers. We saw the reunion with his father. His father died. We saw his brothers come around and they were frightened and he said, "Relax, take it easy. I love you. I'll take care of you." And the book of Genesis closed with Genesis chapter 50 with the end of Joseph's life. And we read this conclusion to the book of Genesis, the book of beginnings.

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The book of beginnings ends like this.

And Joseph said to his brothers, I am about to die. But God will visit you and bring you out of this land and into the land he promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry my bones from hence."

So Joseph died at the age of one hundred and ten years; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

(Genesis 50:24-26 ASV)

Now, if you just turn the page of your Bible to Exodus, chapter 1, you begin to read,

Now these are the names of the sons of Israel, who came into Egypt, (every many and his household came with Jacob):

Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah,

Issachar, Zebulun and Benjamin,

Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher.

And all the souls who came out of the loins of Jacob were seventy souls [in number], and Joseph was in Egypt already.

And Joseph died, and all his brethren and all that generation.

(Exodus 1:1-6 ASV)

You get the picture? I think it becomes increasingly obvious as we look at it, that the Word of God is one book. They story is manifested through the facets of the diamond of the Spirit, but it's one book about one person, the Lord, Jesus Christ, the perfect manifestation of the living God. In fact, every syllable of the Old Testament says one thing, the Savior is coming! And every syllable of the New Testament says the same thing. The Savior has come. He died, He rose again, He's coming again. Jesus Christ is the subject of the Bible. In fact, the Bible is the autobiography of Jesus Christ. His Spirit wrote it.

Every word speaks of Him. It is a continuous story, beloved, written by the same author, but he used various fountain pens of different lives to engrave it upon the Scripture. It is one story.

So, as Genesis ends, Exodus begins and those first six verses meld the two into one. Joseph is dead. All of his brothers are dead, and everybody that ever knew him was dead. That's what the verse says. So, life moves on, time moves on and a whole generation comes to pass. It's 270 years from Joseph's death

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to Moses' birth. It's the changing of the guard in Egypt. It was enough time for the setting of the stage for God's next great entrance into history.

Meanwhile, something unusual was happening—something very unusual. Let's read about it in Exodus, chapter 1, verse 7.

And the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them. (Exodus 1:7 ASV)

Loose translation—they were everywhere! Now, this is the natural progression of multiplication physically and spiritually. It's a supernatural process resulting from a supernatural promise. You say, "What do you mean?" Genesis 17:2, God is speaking.

And I will make My covenant between Me and thee, And I will multiply thee exceedingly. [That's why it happened.]

And I will make you fruitful, and I will make nations of thee and kings shall come out of thee. (Genesis 17:2,6)

So, God said generations ago, that there would be supernatural, fruitful multiplication and that this would be proof that his hand was upon Israel. In fact, in Genesis 35:11, He spoke to Jacob.

I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins. (Genesis 35:11)

What He's saying is, this fruitfulness is the natural result of who He is, not what they did. Now, you pay attention to that. Because, when a church begins to grow or a ministry begins to grow, the same thing is true. It is because of who God is and what God has chosen to do. It is not because of what man has contrived to do.

Then in Genesis 48:4, Jacob was dying and he called Joseph to him, you remember, and he said I want to remind you of the promise of God to Abraham.

Behold, I will make thee fruitful and multiply thee, and I will make of thee a multitude of people, and will give this land to thy seed after thee for an everlasting possession. (Genesis 48:4)

So, there is a five-fold prophecy here:

- 1) They were fruitful; God's hand was on them.

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- 2) They increased abundantly. The result was—
- 3) They multiplied themselves, until as a people, they—
- 4) Waxed exceeding mighty until at last—
- 5) The land was full of them.

Now, we could stop here, and make a really good case for an analogy about spiritual reproduction, but we won't do that because we would never get to the lesson. But the question is then, what was the cause? What was causing all this multiplication? What was causing them to become so strong? Well, the cause was that God did it. I don't think they realized it. I'm not sure that the Jews in Israel today realize where their strength comes from. I'm sure that they don't. But God was supernaturally multiplying them and making them strong. He said He would. He always does what He says He'll do! Case closed.

The effect was, the land was full of them. They were everywhere. The literal translation is, *the place swarmed with Jews*. And there seemed to be a supernatural power in their presence. Now we see what often happens when an individual, or a group, or a church body, or a nation, in Christ, or in God, begins to multiply. Satan panics. Verse 8.

Now there arose a new king over Egypt, and he knew not Joseph.

And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we. [We can't have that.]

Come on let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land. (Exodus 1:8-10)

The world always hits a panic button when God blesses and multiplies His children. The world is threatened. Now, there are four things we need to notice about these circumstances. Let me remind you of them.

1- It was the will of God that His children be multiplied. It wasn't a coincidence. God prophesied it. God promised it. God provided it. That's it.

2- It was also the will of God that a new king come into being, a king who knew not Joseph. How do we know that? Psalm 75:6-7. *Promotion comes neither from the east, the west,*

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the north or the south, God is the One. He lifts up one and He sets down another. Paul added, *the powers that be are ordained of God.* Even that ill-tempered boss of yours, even that seemingly unfair superintendent, or parent of yours. That unfair authority that looms over you like an impending storm. God put them there for your good and for His glory, that He might show Himself strong on your behalf.

Now the indications are this was not just a new king. The phrase here literally means, a new dynasty. It means a new administration. You can liken it in this country to having a new president, a whole new congress and a new cabinet and a new Supreme Court, all at the same time. The whole changing of the guard of you will.

And this new king did not know Joseph. It didn't mean he didn't know about him. He had read his history book. He knew that he existed. It meant he had no regard for him. He didn't put any significance in his life. And God had a reason for that.

3- The king was not fearful that the Jews were going to take over the land, though they were multiplying. I would have been. If you read Exodus 1:10 carefully, what he was afraid of was that they would leave the land. Now you think about it. He was afraid an enemy would come through; war would ensue and they would get on the enemy's side and leave the country. He wasn't so afraid of losing the battle as he was of losing the Jews. Because God's hand was upon the Jews. He wanted to keep them, but he wanted to keep them in their place.

Now that's how the world looks at the church today. The world is aware of what the church stands for. They realize without the church; without the Lord, Jesus Christ, in history, there would be no justice, no order, no legal system, no hospitals, no healing, no hope, no compassion, and no acceptable moral standards. They know that. They want us, but they want us in our place. And that's why they can't stand it when the Christian body begins to, in any way, shape or form, make itself known in the world politically, economically, or in any other way. They want us, but they want us in our place.

They don't want us to leave. They sure don't want us all to leave. But, beloved, we're going to!

For the Lord Himself, shall descend from Heaven with a shout, and with the voice of the archangel, and the trump

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of God. And the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

(I Thessalonians 4:16,17)

Amen? Okay.

Now, what's going to happen when that happens? The Holy Spirit will be gone. Chaos and bloodshed will ensue. Bloodshed like the world has never seen. The lights will go out on planet earth. The restrainer will be gone, that's the Holy Spirit. And when He's gone, sin will run its course. And this could happen soon. Now, that's not what Satan's after. That's not what the king of Egypt was after. His goal was not that they leave, but that they stay and stay under control.

4- Their multiplication and their dynasty, which was of God, resulted in the children of Israel being afflicted, and was also God. And this brings us to verse 11, chapter 1 of Exodus. Pharaoh decides to do something about it.

Therefore, they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses.

And the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor [hard labor]:

And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve was with rigor.

(Exodus 1:11,13,14)

He made them serve in hardship. That was his plan. We'll work them to death. That doesn't work, does it? They just got stronger. He thought he could break their backs through hard work, and their spirits through oppressive authority, but it didn't work. He gave them two jobs. They were to make bricks and then use the bricks in building these cities. The second thing, they were to work in the fields in Egypt, which is as hard a field as you can work in. And, if you look in some of the ancient Egyptian archeological finds, you'll see some paintings of Egyptian taskmasters overseeing what appear to be some Hebrews as they made bricks in hard labor. It's a picture you would expect to see of prisoners of war. The phrase here, "they made their lives bitter through hardship", literally means to crush into pieces

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until there is no spirit left.

Now, let's go back and see if it worked. Verse 12, we left that verse out intentionally and we're going to read it now.

But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they [the Egyptians] were grieved [dismayed] because of the children of Israel. (Exodus 1:12)

They scratched their heads. They went back to their computers. They tried everything but the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied. The more they afflicted them, the more they grew. What that literally means is there was a direct correlation between the two. The more they were afflicted, the more they multiplied. The more they were afflicted, the more they grew. What a good memory verse. The more you are afflicted, the more you will grow, if you let God have His way.

So, once again Satan's plan backfired. He meant evil; God meant it unto good. God was protecting them and multiplying them but they had to endure the affliction to produce character even as Paul said we must do. So, Satan said, "That didn't work. I'll try again." He never gives up. Plan B.

Plan B was to cut off the future of God's people by eliminating the seed of the womb through which the Messiah would come. He doesn't learn, does he? He thought he did it with Joseph, but it backfired. He thought he did it at the birth of Christ. It backfired. He thought he did it at the death of Christ. It really backfired.

God used it for good. What a fool Satan is. God always allows Satan's Plan B's and then uses them for His own glory. Verse 15.

The king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of one was Shiphrah, and the name of the other was Puah:

And he said, When you do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew woman, and see them upon the stools, if it be a son, then you shall kill him: But if it be a daughter, then she shall live. (Exodus 1:15,16)

The first case of reverse discrimination! Plan B—the two Hebrew midwives were to see that every boy baby died and every girl baby lived. They thought this way they would stop the seed of the Messiah and it would all be over.

But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.

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And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them [WHOA! That's in the original Hebrew. In the Hebrew it's whoa-whoa, but it's the same thing.], Why have you done this thing, and have saved the men children alive?

And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them.

Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty.

And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses. (Exodus 1:17-21)

Now, why didn't they submit to the king's ordinance? Because the Hebrew midwives were being asked to disobey the law of God. They had to obey God rather than man, so God honored their obedience, blessed their families and everything kept multiplying. The more they were afflicted, the more they grew. The more they were afflicted, the more they multiplied. Plan C, Satan says,

And Pharaoh charged all his people saying, [Okay], Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive. (Exodus 1:22)

Now, listen to me. Satan only goes so far underground and then he loses it and he comes out into the open. You watch it. He reveals his vicious hatred for God's people at a certain time in the battle when everything he tries to do turns against him. And, beloved, he's doing that in the world today. How far this will go, we don't know. But he's only disguised as an angel of light for so long and finally, he loses it and goes out into the open. You see it all the way through Scripture.

This time he said, "Okay. No more fooling around. Every Hebrew baby, we're going to drown in the river, if it's a boy. If it's a girl, we'll keep her." Now, when Satan gets that up front, it's always because God is about to move onto center stage again. God's man of the hour, you see, was about to be born. And the only thing Satan could think of doing was drown them all and then we will probably get the right one.

As it unfolds, an awkward, simple, seemingly risky plan to save the child comes from the heart of God. It seems so strange that God would do it this way. But that's what today's lesson is all about. God does things differently than we do. Praise God for

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that. Let's look at chapter 2, verse 1. You know the story, but it's still exciting.

And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi.

And the woman conceived, and bore a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him for three months.

And when she could no longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags [reeds] by the river's bank.

And his sister stood far off, to wit what would be done to him.

And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when he saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it.

And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children.

Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to you a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee? [That's a thought.]

And Pharaoh's daughter said to her [Yep—that's loose.], Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother.

And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse if for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child and nursed it.

And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water.

(Exodus 2:1-10)

So, we have seen Satan's plan, now we see God's plan. Oh, how different. His plan was that after the child was born, He would place it in the mother's eyes to see how special this child was. She hid him for three months where there was no contact at all with the Egyptians. And finally, when it was no longer possible, she took some reeds that grew along the Nile River. Now these reeds grew up to about ten feet tall and they were about the thickness of your finger. And they were used to make boats and sails and mattresses and sandals and things like paper.

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The baby's mother took these stalks and she carefully cemented them and sealed them together with something called pitch. Now pitch is an asphalt-like substance that comes from the Dead Sea. So, she made it into a little basket-like boat that could float for a long time. And in this little ark, or this little boat, she placed her precious son, and she placed it among the reeds in the River Nile where the king's daughter was to come to bathe.

Ladies, can you imagine the feeling in her heart when she put that baby in that little basket that she had made, put it on the river, took her hands off and walked away. Then she had her daughter to watch this floating bassinette to see what would happen, with no way to control what would happen, except from God.

Enter Pharaoh's daughter, bath time. She sees the child and says, "This is one of those Hebrew children." Now certainly, she knew what her father would normally do if she came home with one of these Hebrew babies that he told to be executed. Right? But somehow God placed it in her heart to save this child and raise him in the shadows of the very one who was out to slay him.

So, the baby's sister said, "I know one of those Hebrew women who would be glad to nurse the child." Praise God, in one of these miraculous plans of God, the child's mother was paid by the daughter of the child's enemy to nurse her own little boy. Only God could do that. Tradition has it that she kept the child until he was five years old. We don't know that for sure, but we know there was a second time somewhere, that the mother had to give him up again. This time, it was for good. Can you imagine? The Scripture says she gave him up and he became her son, that is, Pharaoh's daughter.

So, we have a beautiful portrait of parenting the way God intended it to be. At birth, the parent recognizes the decree of the enemy and turns loose the child and places him in at the mercy of God. And God honors that submission, accepts the gift, and returns to the parent, custody of the child. So now, the child is yours, but the parent rears the child until they are ready to be spiritually or emotionally weaned. But the child still belongs to God.

Finally, the parent relinquishes custody all together, this

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time for good, for God to do with them as He sees fit. The child may be 18, 20, 25, or 30. One thing we know for sure parents, it's difficult to turn loose. And that's why it's so important, beloved, that you make that first acknowledgement when you first receive that child. When that child first comes into your home, you give the ownership back to God. You give the title back to God. You say, "Father, I will accept temporary custody." But, at some point in time that child is yours, and that second decision is only bearable if you make the first one.

Anyway, Moses is now reared among the best Egypt has to offer. He's educated by their best, trained by the enemy in the enemy's camp, at the enemy's expense. You say, "How do you know that?" Well, turn to Acts, chapter 7. Stephen is giving his defense before the counsel and he's talking about God's provision through the years. Now, listen to how accurate Stephen's account of this is and how perfectly it blends with exactly what God said in Exodus.

But when the time of promise drew nigh, which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt,
Till another king arose, which knew not Joseph.

The same dealt subtilly with our kindred, and evil treated our fathers, so that they cast out their young children, to the end they might not live.

In which time Moses was born, and he was exceeding fair, and nourished up in his father's house three months:

And when he was cast out, Pharaoh's daughter took him up, and nourished him for her own son.

And Moses was learned [educated] in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.

(Acts 7:17-22)

Now, the Egyptians were considered to be, at that point in history, the most intelligent, best-trained people in all the earth. Josephus writes that Moses became a general in Pharaoh's army and defeated the Ethiopians when they invaded Egypt. We don't know. But we do know, he outgrew his intelligence, had to be sent into exile for 40 years where he traded all his knowledge for a heap of wisdom, but we'll get to that in the next lesson.

The key to it all is this wonderful, sovereign God of ours, took the evil intent of the enemy and turned it around 180 degrees and produced from the ashes of defeat, a vessel of victory. What

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a beautiful, beautiful experience. But, have you ever asked yourself, “Yeah, God, but why? Why a boat? Why the River Nile? Pharaoh’s daughter? Come on Lord.” Such a simple, unworldly, unworkable plan. Yep. These are the ways of God.

Have you ever done a study on the ways of God? You’re going to. I mean, the methods God uses to accomplish His purposes, the way He goes about defeating the enemy. Let me remind you. 1) it’s almost never the way we would have done it, and 2) it’s usually 180 degrees from the way we would have done it. The ways of God—they’re slow, they’re awkward, they’re amazingly simple, yet profound in their simplicity and they always were.

Well, in closing, this morning, let me give you ten of the wonderful ways of God and ask you to try to meditate on those and think about them as He works in your life in the days to come.

1- He uses people. He doesn’t have to but He does. He works through their frailties. He waits for their faith. People are His raw material. He used Moses’ mother to demonstrate His love. He used Moses’ sister to demonstrate His courage. He used Pharaoh’s daughter to demonstrate His sovereignty. You say, “God, why did you go to all this trouble? Why didn’t you just snatch up that kid, lock him up in a locker somewhere and send him out when he was ready? Or, better still, Father, why didn’t you just have Pharaoh murdered, overturn the decree, you know, Lord, the way I would have done it?”

“No,” he said, “I use people. People under pressure.” He could have built a boat without Noah. Have you every thought of it? Seems like he wasted a lot of time on that project, didn’t he? He knew what He was doing. He could have killed a giant without David. That giant could have had a heart attack and boom! He could have taken Jericho without Joshua. But you see, God is not in the business of doing things. God is in the business of changing lives. Doing things is just a means to an end, so He always uses people.

Now, beloved, that’s the way it’s going to be in your life if you’ll let Him. He could lift you out of your circumstances with a bolt of lightening and a clap of thunder, but think of all the folks that would miss a blessing including you. So, chances are, He will use people. And chances are He will use ordinary people. His people. People are the essence of the wonderful ways of God.

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2- He will use whatever He has to work with. Now, aren't you glad? He used reeds for a basket, a river for a bath, a rock and a slingshot, water at a wedding, five loaves, three fish. God can create anything, anytime. He could speak and anything He wanted would be created but He chooses to use what He has. He multiplies it, He magnifies it, but He uses what He has.

And that's the way it is in your life. He'll take your background. He'll take your personality. He'll take your spiritual gift, your temperament—that's all He needs. He'll bless you. He'll break you. He'll make you into what He wants you to be. He won't make you into me; He won't make me into you. He made us different to use us differently, but He'll work with what He has. That's the way He works. It's part of the wonderful ways of God. Aren't you glad?

3- He loves to create impossible odds. Have you ever noticed that? Here is little baby alone on the River Nile, Elijah on Mount Carmel throwing water on a sacrifice—odds. Then there's Gideon sending home all but 300 troops—odds. There's Joshua surrounding Jericho blowing a trumpet, David facing a giant with a slingshot, Daniel in a den of lions. These are God's kind of odds. God will wait until the odds are impossible and no one can claim the glory. He will do it in your life. When the odds look workable, nothing seems to happen. But, beloved, when the odds look insurmountable, God comes on the scene and He'll arm you with a spiritual slingshot and a little rock and you'll say, "Lord, nobody can do this but you!" And He'll say, "Now, you're getting it." Down goes the giant and, sure enough it was God.

4- He uses simple things and simple plans. I mean, nobody but God would have put a baby in a boat and expect the king's daughter to defy her father and raise the child, no one but God. No one but God would build a monstrous boat on dry land. Nobody but God would march around a city with ram's horns, nobody but God. Nobody but God would have used a cross to save the world. While Satan has all this maze of complex, computerized plans to destroy God's plan, your God is still building boats and blowing trumpets. And the contrast, beloved, in itself, is a demonstration of His grace. His solution to your problems may be profound in their simplicity, but they will amaze you and amaze the world by how simple they really are.

5- He always loves to turn the tables on Satan. He takes the

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very things Satan designs to destroy you and uses those as His tools to deliver you. Always. The conflict on Mount Carmel, a son sold by his brothers, an edict from Pharaoh to kill boy babies, an angry mob crying, “Crucify Him.” So, God takes the edict Satan gave, uses the river he meant for drowning, uses Pharaoh’s own daughter to deliver the child and let’s Pharaoh pay to raise and educate him. He did it with Jesus, He did it with Paul, He did it with Job, He did it with Joseph and He’ll do it for you. The very thing Satan designed to be your downfall, God will use to make you useful, and He’ll fling it back in Satan’s face. Satan never learns.

6- God’s timing seems slow, but always is He on time. The Midianites came right on time for Joseph, not a minute too late, not a minute too early. The rains came just in time for Noah, not a minute too early, not a minute too late. Pharaoh’s daughter came right on time to bathe. God never misses. He owns the clock, so He’ll use it any way He chooses. So often, we are willing to accept the will of God, but we’re not willing to wait on the timing of God, so we’ll miss the blessing of God. You say, “But, He seems to be taking forever.” Beloved, He has forever.

7- God always accomplishes His purposes. Nobody else bats 1,000. Beloved, God doesn’t bat 666 or 729. He never misses. He turns a cross into a crown, a threat into a triumph, a prison into an epistle, but He’s never failed. Joshua 21:44-45, a great memory passage.

And the Lord gave them rest round about according to all that He swore to their fathers and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them.

And the Lord delivered all their enemies to their hand and there failed not ought of any good thing which the Lord had spoken; all came to pass. (Joshua 21:44,45)

All that’s our God. And even in your life, if you can’t see any light at the end of the tunnel or any purpose in this humiliating scenario, neither could Moses’ mother, nor could the disciples as they led Jesus off to that cross, beloved. *But God will do what He says He will do.* Always! And Satan has no power to keep Him from it.

8- He always brings glory to His name. That’s why we were created.

I will bring my sons and daughters, everyone that is called

The Wonderful Ways of God

by name for I have created them for My Glory, I have formed him, yea I have made him. (Isaiah 43:6-7)

That's why Moses was created. That's why you were created. That's why I was created, for His glory. You want to feel useful? Feel that you are glorifying God, even in your suffering.

This is a biggie!

9- He uses the process even more than the plan. God could have short-circuited the forty years in the desert for Moses. I would have, wouldn't you? That's too long. I don't have time to wait for all that. I mean I don't have time to go the slow way to get from here to here. I have to get on the freeway and go faster. You know the deal. Forty years—forty years in the palace, forty years on a mountainside, "Lord, we don't have that kind of time!" God says, "Oh, wait a minute. The process is what I'm after. The plan is nothing."

10- God takes full responsibility for the outcome. Remember II Chronicles, chapter 20? We looked at that. Remember Jehoshaphat? He was looking at the end of everything. He didn't know what to do and he went to God and he said, "God, I don't know what to do. I'm out of ideas." And God says, "Wonderful. The battle is not yours anyway, it's Mine. You gather the troops and begin to sing and praise."

...for the battle is not yours but Gods.

And when they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten. (II Chronicles 20:15,22)

That's our job, praise Him and rest. Moses' mother could have defied God and said, "How dare you take my child." Instead, she surrendered to the will of God and the plan of God and left the outcome up to God.

Beloved, these are the ways of our God. They are 180 degrees from ours. But, aren't they wonderful?

Isaiah said it best. He said,

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, [that much difference] so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9)

The Wonderful Ways of God

Our precious God has lifted the temporal into the realm of the eternal and made it supernatural, but simple. And, so it was, that a baby, a boat and some bricks, changed the course of history. For in His magnificent plan, the more they afflicted them, the more they grew. Satan was confounded, but we shouldn't be. Because from the living legend of Moses, we can already begin to see the wonderful ways of our wonderful God. They are so much higher than ours.

THE WONDERFUL WAYS OF GOD

How wonderful the ways of God
How grand His battle plan
So unlike the plans of Satan
So unlike the ways of man.

He uses rocks and slingshots
To leave life's giants dazed
So simple are the tools of God
The world just stands amazed.

He always uses people
To implement His story
He always makes the timing such
To maximize His glory.

He makes the odds impossible
He gives us giants to slay
Until no plan of mortal man
Could ever save the day.

And Satan's own designs, it seems
Though aimed for evil still
Become God's greatest tools
To bring about His will.

He'll take and make a tiny boat
To place amidst the reeds
And change the course of history
To meet His children's needs.

Oh, the matchless ways of God
Destroying Satan's powers
And life's great joy is finding out
They're so much higher than ours.

The Wonderful Ways of God

Let's pray.

Our Father and our God,

How we praise You, how we thank You, how we bless You, that Your ways are higher than ours. By Your precious, precious grace may You remind us as we go through the week that lies before us, just how different Your ways are. May we marvel and may we fall on our faces in utter adoration at the simple and yet, profound plan of God.

In Jesus' Name we pray,

Amen.

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(01.14.20.dvd)