



# February 2008

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## A Prayer for the Spirit of Truth

From the cowardice that dares not face new truth;  
 From the laziness that is contented with half-truth;  
 From the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth,  
 Good Lord, deliver me.  
 Amen.  
*[a prayer from Kenya]*

1

2

Luke 23:1-25

Luke 23:26-56

Genesis 41  
Psalms 32

Genesis 42  
Psalms 33

3

4

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6

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9

Luke 24:1-12

Luke 24:13-53

Hebrews 1  
Genesis

Hebrews 2  
Genesis

Hebrews 3:1-4:13

Hebrews 4:14-6:12

Hebrews 6:13-20

Genesis 43  
Psalms 24

Genesis 44  
Psalms 35

45:1—46:27  
Psalms 36

46:28-47:31  
Psalms 37

Genesis 48  
Psalms 38

Genesis 49:1-50:26  
Psalms 39

Exodus 1:1-2:25  
Psalms 40

10

11

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16

Hebrews 7  
Exodus 3:1-4:31  
Psalms 41

Hebrews 8  
Exodus 5:1-6:27  
Proverbs 1

Hebrews 9:1-22  
Exodus 6:28-8:32  
Proverbs 2

Hebrews 9:23-10:18  
Exodus 9-10  
Proverbs 3

Hebrews 10:19-39  
Exodus 11-12  
Proverbs 4

Hebrews 11:1-22  
Exodus 13-14  
Proverbs 5

Hebrews 11:23-40  
Exodus 15  
Proverbs 6:1-7:5

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

Hebrews 12  
Exodus 16-17  
Proverbs 7:6-27

Hebrews 13  
Exodus 18-19  
Proverbs 8

Matthew 1  
Exodus 20-21  
Proverbs 9

Matthew 2  
Exodus 22-23  
Proverbs 10

Matthew 3  
Exodus 24  
Proverbs 11

Matthew 4  
Exodus 25-27  
Proverbs 12

Matthew 5:1-20  
Exodus 28-29  
Proverbs 13

24

25

26

27

28

29

Matthew 5:21-48  
Exodus 30-32  
Proverbs 14

Matthew 6:1-18  
Exodus 33-34  
Proverbs 15

Matthew 6:19-34  
Exodus 35-36  
Proverbs 16

Matthew 7  
Exodus 37  
Proverbs 17

Matthew 8:1-13  
Proverbs 18

Exodus 38-40

Anchor  
Park and  
East  
Anchorage  
UMC's  
Bible  
Reading  
Challenge  
Calendar

# 2008 Bible Reading Resources and Information

## The Letter to the Hebrews

During the month of February, we will be reading the **Letter to the Hebrews**. This anonymous letter (sometimes attributed to Paul, however most Bible experts do not believe he wrote it) centers on the pivotal role of Christ as the High Priest and sacrifice securing salvation for humanity.

Its language and images arise from the sacrificial systems of the Old Testament and therefore sometimes is experienced as a difficult read. Its ongoing argument for the superiority of Christ over the Levitical priesthood can seem arcane to the 21st Century reader. However, **Hebrews** is also remembered for its motivational exhortations to faith in chapters 3, 4 and 6. It is probably most cherished for its extended definition of faith in Chapter 11 and lifting Jesus as the pioneer and primary example of our faith in Chapter 12.

The message of God's unconditional forgiveness and acceptance of each of us because of the life, death and resurrection of Christ is the author's primary goal. He then sets out to remind and exhort believers to use this gracious act as motivation for living a faithful life to the end.

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(See Numbers 14)

12-14-2007

THE MANNA AND QUAIL HAVE BEEN GREAT ...  
ANY CHANCE OF SOME GOOD HIKING SOCKS AND  
SHOES?

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## Exodus -

### The "Root Experiences" of the Jewish Faith

**Exodus** will be the focus of much of our Old Testament reading in February. The book of **Exodus** contains the two "root experiences" that give the Jewish Faith its focus and direction.

First, **Exodus** describes God's miraculous emancipation of the Hebrew children from their years of slavery in Egypt. A result of the emancipation is the responsibility of freedom, Moses and the Hebrew children quickly learn that the responsibility of living freely leads inevitably to God's expectations of those who claim faith in God.

This reality leads to the second "root experience" of the Old Testament faith: Moses' encounter with the LORD on Mt. Sinai and his receiving of the Ten Commandments.

The stories and events of **Exodus** may be very familiar to many of us. For some, it may not be due to repeated reading of the book but rather because of repeated viewing of the epic film **The Ten Commandments**. The great temptation when reading familiar passages of Scripture is to skim along quickly. Instead, make yourself read the more familiar passages slowly. Allow yourself the opportunity to re-discover the hidden blessings found in the details of stories we often read too quickly because we think we know them.

*When I read the Bible, I can look at life through the eyes of Jesus. When I get stuck, if I look through the eyes of Jesus, then my fear turns to fearlessness. When I begin to throw a pity party for myself, if I look at my problem with the eyes of Jesus, I learn that nothing is impossible with God. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. When I look at people through the eyes of Jesus, the selfishness and self-focus in me changes to compassion.*

- Michael Slaughter, **Real Followers**, pp. 40-41