



21 days to
freedom

21 Day Transformation Devotional
Ps Nathan Cunneen

WELCOME

This is a 21 day devotional to help you set new habits and break old mind sets that limit you, but this more than just a devotional.

When Jesus said new wine requires new wine skins he was hinting that the structure of our thoughts, the system of our habits, the traditional paths we have followed won't be able to produce the change we are looking for. The new wine will expand over time as its fullness is revealed (as it ferments) and it will break the old container which has no give.

The new wine requires a *new* flexible container - a *new* flexible approach.

Our wine skins are **mindsets**.

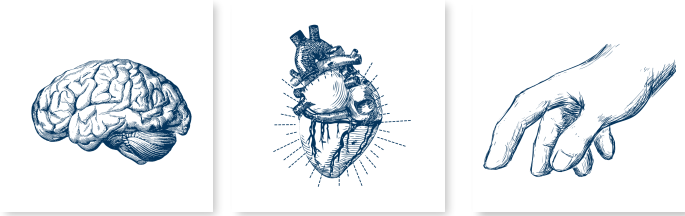
A new mindset, a teachable spirit, and a willingness to put down what I've previously been taught is the only way that we can grow and find "new" life.

A new mindset is an open door to new possibilities and **freedom**.

I encourage you to try fasting while on this journey into freedom with the LORD.

Fasting heightens our awareness of God and opens our spirit to fresh revelation. Food fasting has many health benefits but it empowers your spirit to lead your body and mind.

Below are 3 images you may see regularly as reminders of what we need to walk into our freedom. These are images of our head, heart and hands.



Each one of these will remind you to not just read on, but to take action for transformation to take place.

Transformation requires a change of thinking and actions that go with it.

Don't just read the actions suggested in this devotional. Actually do them!

Your freedom starts in these actions!

As a devotional, there is great value in reading the scriptures referenced and keeping a daily journal to document what the LORD says to you over these next few weeks.

I believe the LORD will open the doors of revelation and power to lead you into freedom.

May these 21 days be transformational!

Blessings,

Ps Nathan Cunneen

Join the private Facebook Group to receive encouragement on your journey!

DAY 1



AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CHANGE

EXODUS 1, ECCLESIASTES 11:4

Why change anything?

Change is difficult. It can be hard work.

But the cost of not changing can also be catastrophic!!

It's circa. 1500 BC, and for 400 years a family known as the descendants of Israel (Jacob) have lived in Egypt. But things have changed for them. They are now oppressed and enslaved.

To stay in this environment would be accepting a life of slavery.

But how can they leave Egypt?

They have grown up here. This is all they know!

To leave Egypt would mean leaving behind friends, jobs, certainty, their favourite coffee shop!

Change always requires us to leave behind the known, in hope that the unknown has something better in store!

So what about you? Are you willing to pursue a better life?

Are you ready to leave behind the slave masters in order to experience a higher level of freedom?



Write: the things that you would like to be different in your life



Pray: Lord, show me the things I need to change.

DAY 2



TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

EXODUS 2, EXODUS 3

Have you ever tried to do the right thing, only for it to backfire in your face?

Enter Moses!

Moses arrives on the Egyptian scene to assist the Hebrews to fight off their problems. But Moses has problems of his own!

He tried to do the right thing, yet he went about it the wrong way. In trying to protect a fellow Hebrew, Moses inadvertently kills an Egyptian slave driver and is now on the run from the law.

He flees to a foreign land and starts a new life in the country.

All is well that ends well, right?

As Moses finds out, he can buy peace for a short time but unresolved issues will often get to us in the end. When Moses meets the LORD in a burning bush, he sends Moses back to the problem that Moses ran from.

Change in our life will not happen until we are willing to face up to the problems of our past.

Moses is called to face his problems and sort it out the right way - God's way!



Write: Where do the problems in your life begin? What are the unmet needs in my life driving these behaviours?



Pray: Lord, show me the things I need to change.

DAY 3



FINDING SOLUTIONS

EXODUS 4, ECCLESIASTES 4:12

Yesterday you wrote down the problems you are facing and the driving motives behind them.

This can feel confronting and overwhelming. You may feel that you can't solve these problems on your own.

That's normal.

When given the task to go back and rescue the Hebrew people from slavery, Moses also felt overwhelmed.

His confidence left, and he doubted his ability to finish the job.

The LORD is certainly enough for us, but He also knows that we need people like Aaron to walk along side us to encourage, mentor and train us.

We aren't designed to walk alone.



Write: Who has the LORD put in your life to encourage and mentor you? Who can you encourage?



Take Action: Reach out to encourage one person this week. Make an appointment to see someone who can help you through the list of problems you are facing.



Pray: LORD, thank you for always being with me. Help me find another special friend to walk with me on this journey.

DAY 4



GOD PROMISES TO DELIVER YOU

EXODUS 5, EXODUS 6:1-13

Have you ever tried to do the right thing, only to find it gets you into further difficulty?

Moses follows the LORD's command and Pharaoh responds by making it more oppressive for the Hebrews.

Thanks a lot Moses!

But the LORD does not want you to give up at this point. In fact it's at this time we need to acknowledge where our salvation comes from!

Some situations that we find ourselves in will seem like there is no way out. At this time we must call on the name of the LORD like Moses!

Read Exodus 6:2-8 again and take note of how God will deliver Moses and his people from slavery.

While this passage was for the Hebrew people, it foreshadowed Jesus ministry to come 1500 years later.

In Luke 4:18-19 Jesus announced at the start of his ministry:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.”

Jesus has come to set you free from whatever holds you captive!

In my early years as a Christian I believed that Jesus only cared about my spiritual healing and deliverance. That was until I understood the meaning of greek word for salvation - sozo.

Sozo means to save, keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction

1. to save a suffering one (from perishing), i.e. one suffering from disease, to make well, heal, restore to health

2. to preserve one who is in danger of destruction, to save or rescue

Jesus is interested in bringing you into complete health and wholeness in every facet of life! In fact when we translate Jesus' words "Be healed" from Greek we find it is the word sozo (salvation).



Write: What areas of your life do you need God's sozo in?

Is it financial, emotional, physiological, spiritual, psychological, or relational?

Or is there something else you need God's outstretched arm for?



Pray: Heavenly Father, I need your mighty outstretched arm to redeem and restore me. I call on you for help in Jesus' mighty name!

Be still for 5mins: What does the Lord want to say to you or show you about your situation? (Jeremiah 33:3)

DAY 5



COVERED BY THE BLOOD

EXODUS 12:1-42, 1 CORINTHIANS 5:7

The process of walking into freedom isn't always straight forward.

There were 10 plagues before Pharaoh agreed to let Moses and the Hebrews leave. These plagues were not just random attempts to upset Pharaoh. Each plague was the visible sign of an Egyptian “god’s” defeat (see image below).

In the final plague the first born of man and livestock all die, except where the sign of the blood of the lamb is seen. But why are the first borns the ones to perish? Many see this as God's retribution for Pharaoh killing all the Hebrew male babies in Exodus chapter one, but perhaps more is happening.

In Exodus 4:22-23 we read that Moses' warning to Pharaoh from the outset:

Then tell Pharaoh that this is what the LORD says: 'Israel is My firstborn son, and I told you to let My son go so that he may worship Me. But since you have refused to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son!'

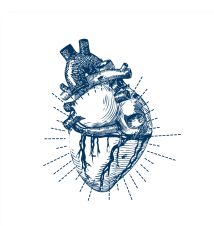
Each of the plagues are increasing warnings to Pharaoh that the LORD will follow through, yet Pharaoh believes he himself is a "son of an Egyptian god".

The final "god" defeated here is Pharaoh himself. Those who acknowledged Pharaoh as their "Lord" were under the same judgement. But those who acknowledge YHWH as LORD were protected and marked by the blood of the lamb.

The blood of the lamb foreshadowed Jesus death on the cross. Those that stand under Jesus' blood and apply it to their lives will walk into a new level of freedom.



Write: What are my misplaced allegiances to the gods of this world? How do I kill these gods in my life?



Pray: Heavenly Father, I confess I have followed after other worldly gods and I need your forgiveness.

Thank you that Jesus is my passover lamb. I pray the blood of Jesus over my life so that you may overlook my sin.

Help me to leave the old way of “Egypt” behind, and walk into the new life you have for me.

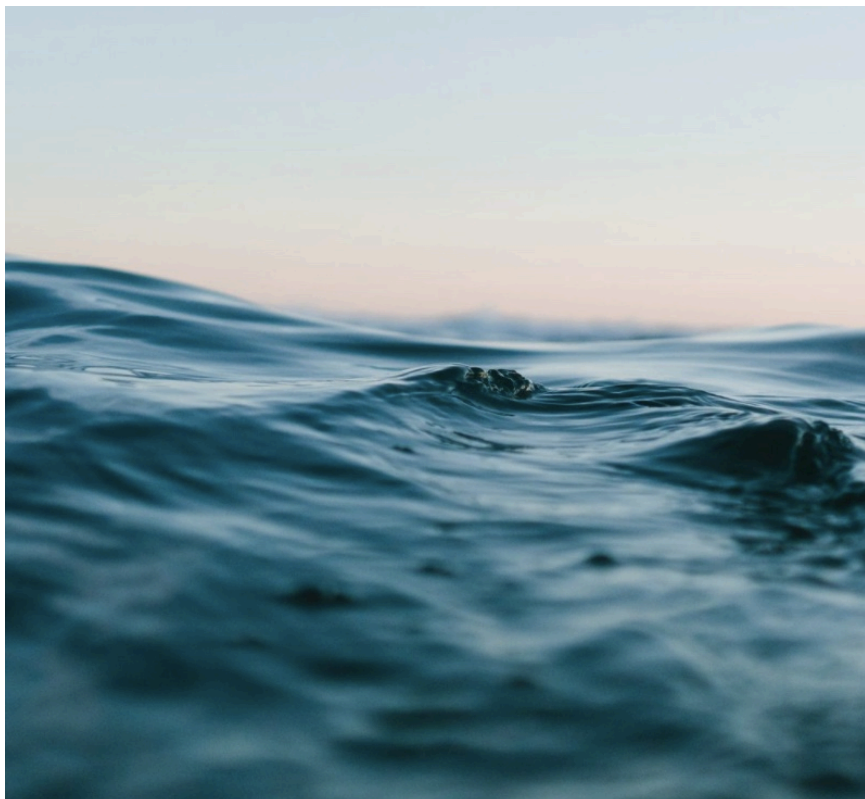
10 PLAGUES

Jehovah God vs. gods of Egypt

The plagues of Egypt are well known, but a deep study reveals that each was a direct challenge to the various Egyptian gods and goddesses. The plagues affected the Egyptians' physical senses as well as their hearts with reminders that Jehovah God was far superior to any of their gods. He exercised power at will while the Egyptian gods remained helpless against Him.

	<p>PLAGUE 1: WATER TO BLOOD Exodus 7:14–25</p> <p>The Egyptians were also able to turn water to blood, including the death of the fish and a smell that prohibited even trying to drink the water. Pharaoh's heart remained hard.</p> <p>The Nile was the source of Egypt's power. There are several gods in their pantheon that draw life from the river. Khnum was the guardian of the river's source. Hapi was the god of annual flooding of the Nile and the lord of the fish. Osiris had the Nile as his bloodstream.</p>		<p>PLAGUE 6: BOILS Exodus 9:8–12</p> <p>This was the first plague to affect the body directly. God made a distinction between the Israelites and the Egyptians. The Egyptian priests were unable to appear in court.</p> <p>Isis was the goddess of health and Imhotep was the god of healing.</p>
	<p>PLAGUE 2: FROGS Exodus 8:1–15</p> <p>The Egyptians also produced frogs. Piles of dead frogs filled the land with a foul odor.</p> <p>Heqt was an Egyptian goddess with the head of a frog.</p>		<p>PLAGUE 7: HAIL Exodus 9:13–35</p> <p>This plague affected the agriculture and livestock that was left in the field. Such a storm of hail was unique to Egypt.</p> <p>Nut was the goddess of the sky. Her father Shu, god of the wind and air, was a calming god.</p>
	<p>PLAGUE 3: GNATS OR LICE Exodus 8:16–19</p> <p>The gnats or lice came up from the dust of the earth. The Egyptian priests could not duplicate this miracle. They declared, "This is the finger of God."</p> <p>Geb was the god over the dust of the earth.</p>		<p>PLAGUE 8: LOCUSTS Exodus 10:1–20</p> <p>This plague would be told to Pharaoh's sons and grandsons, serving the purpose of showing God's power for generations.</p> <p>Neper and Nepri were the god and goddess of grain. Set was the god of disorder.</p>
	<p>PLAGUE 4: FLIES Exodus 8:20–32</p> <p>This was the first plague that affected only the Egyptians.</p> <p>Khepri had the head of a beetle and also moved the sun.</p>		<p>PLAGUE 9: DARKNESS Exodus 10:21–29</p> <p>It was so dark for three days that the darkness could be felt.</p> <p>Ra, the god of the sun, was the most worshipped and revered god in Egypt after the Pharaoh. Jehovah God showed He had power even over the mightiest of the Egyptian gods.</p>
	<p>PLAGUE 5: SICK CATTLE Exodus 9:1–7</p> <p>God continued to distinguish between the Israelites and the Egyptians. This plague affected only the Egyptian herds.</p> <p>Hathor was a fertility goddess who was often depicted with the head or horns of a bull and sometimes as a bull wearing the symbols of Hathor.</p>		<p>PLAGUE 10: DEATH OF FIRSTBORN Exodus 12:29–36</p> <p>Establishes the Jewish Passover festival.</p> <p>This plague was a judgement on all Egyptian gods, including Pharaoh himself. In Exodus 1, Pharaoh had ordered the killing of Israelite babies, and now the firstborn of all Egypt was killed.</p>

DAY 6



BAPTISM AND BORDERS

EXODUS 13:17-22, EXODUS 14, 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-2,
ROMANS 6:1-14

Even though the LORD is leading Israel, he leads them into a “dead end”. How will the Israelites cross the sea?

Every step in this process of deliverance has required a step of faith and trust in the LORD. And this final step seems huge!

Moses parts the sea with his staff and Israel make their way across on dry land with a wall of water on either side. Meanwhile the cloud has now separated Israel from the Egyptian army providing light to Israel and darkness to the encroaching army.

After crossing the sea, the LORD allows the walls of water to fall upon the chasing army and removes the on-coming attack. The sea returns to normal providing a boundary and protection from any further attacks.

The crossing of the *Yam Suph* (Reed Sea not Red Sea) is the background to understanding baptism.

Baptism is a boundary marker. It's the border we cross to move from the old into the new.

You may think that some addictions or problems in your life will not change while you are still alive. Baptism is the process of applying Jesus' death to your life (Romans 6:1-14). When we die to ourselves - we are no longer in charge of our own life. We are now alive to live for the LORD.



Write: What fears, addictions and problems will be sorted when I die? What would be different if I could have this freedom now?



Take Action: If you are serious about walking into the new life God has for you, then it's time to be baptised. Talk to your Pastor about it.

Baptism isn't for people who are already living a holy life, but for those who are starting a new life. It's a boundary marker to say I don't want to go back to the old, I now intend to live for Jesus.

If you have been baptised, try to remember the moment. Remind yourself you are "dead" to all the world's power and alive to live for God.



Pray: Thank you Jesus, that I have been crucified with you. I crucify my fears, my addictions, my ego. I am no longer afraid because I have died.

Thank you that I have also been raised as a new person in Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me (Galatians 2:20).

DAY 7



PEACE MAKER

EXODUS 15:22-27, MATTHEW 5:9, COLOSSIANS 3:12-15,

It's only a few days after Israel has seen the miraculous deliverance of God, and they are already grumbling. They camp at a place with bitter waters, they call "bitterness" - *Marah*.

When people in your life do not measure up to expectations, it's important that you don't camp at the bitter waters. It's up to you to call on the LORD and ask for the remedy.

Often peace-making is avoided in preference for peace-keeping. Peace-making actually goes beyond pleasantries and requires a heart-to-heart conversation.

Making peace with people is critical to "moving on" to a better dwelling place like Elim.

Following through on this one step, will release unprecedented healing and freedom in your life.



Write: Who am I avoiding, or who do I have unresolved issues with?

Who has hurt me that I wish would apologise?

Who have I upset, miscommunicated with, or projected unrealistic expectations on?



Pray: Ask God to help you to forgive each of the people who has upset you.

Picture the peace of God resting on you and the person you are forgiving as you do this. Do this every day for the next week!

Pray: Now ask God to remind you of anyone who you may accidentally offended and ask him for the remedy. Pray for the same peace to rest on them.



Take Action: Make a time to make peace with those you have hurt and those who have hurt you.

It may be a simple text message, letter, email or phone call.

The best way is to meet in person.

DAY 8



OUR DAILY BREAD

EXODUS 16, DEUTERONOMY 8:2-3, MATTHEW 6:7-14

Despite leaving a very oppressive system, Israel wishes they could return to a predictable but smaller life.

Stepping into the unknown can be so scary - that a terrible past seems better than an uncertain future.

At this point it's a good to consider who you will put your trust in. Are you trusting God's daily provision, or your ability to create a better future for yourself?

It is good to have a vision for your life and we will get around to that, but when the future looks unknown it's not time to turn around and go back to Egypt.

There will be many reasons to head back to Egypt, but Egypt is not your home. You are called to walk forward into a new chapter with new challenges.

You are in the middle of the story, this is not the end.

This chapter will be about appreciating the day-to-day provision, sustenance and guidance from the LORD that will lead you into a new level of freedom.

God wants to free you from trusting in your ability to plan out your life in detail. He is calling you to trust him with things big and small. This will enable you to build a new foundation with fixed certainty in *His* goodness.

He is trustworthy. He is good. He will lead the way.



Write: Are you afraid that you might repeat the mistakes of your past?

Write down the past mistakes you wish never happened.

How did these things hurt you?



Take Action: Often we can forgive others, but we can't forgive ourselves. This leads to hyper-vigilance and fear of losing control.

This means you will continue to be held prisoner to your past.

The only way forward is make peace with our past, including our past self. It's helpful to realise that the old self was crucified (re-read your Day 6 journal entries).

This new you is not fearful to be vulnerable again. You no longer live, but Christ lives in you.



Pray: Extend grace to your past self and forgive yourself for every hurt that you've written above.

Picture the peace of God coming on your past self.

Ask God, what do I need to trust you with right now?

DAY 9



THIRSTY

EXODUS 17:1-7, JOHN 7:37-39, 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-13

The most important item to carry on a hiking trip is water.

Moses knows this. The Hebrews know this. Why hasn't God provided this?

Why would he lead you into the desert without water?

We can get frustrated and upset when we can't satisfy what our physical body is thirsting for - but often these physical "thirsts" comes from a deeper longing.

At our core we long for a meaning and purpose to our life that only God can bring.



Write: What are your deepest desires?

What would bring you the most satisfaction and enjoyment from life?

What makes you come alive?



Jesus is your source and he knows what you need.

Pray: Ask Jesus - is there an activity where I find more satisfaction and enjoyment with your help?

Where do I need to focus my time Jesus?



Take Action: Make time to for some of those activities

DAY 10



LIVING IN VICTORY

EXODUS 17:8-16, PSALM 103:1-5, ACTS 16:16-34

Israel find themselves in a battle with the Amalekites as they move further into the wilderness.

From a distance Moses watches on.

When Moses' arms are lifted in the air they are winning, but when he grows tired and his arms fall by his side they are losing.

This is a reminder of how we are to fight our battles.

Praising God is the weapon that defeats the enemy.

To live victoriously, we must live from the victory that Jesus has already provided for us on the cross.

Paul and Silas experience this same phenomena in AD 51. As they praised God despite their circumstances, their prison chains broke off. Their songs lifted them into the freedom realm.

In order to walk in victory, we must carry the praise of God into every inch of our life.

Remember: *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13).*



Write: If you can do all things through Christ - what does this include for you?

Write down what battles or accomplishments you would like victory in.

Write down what a victorious outcome looks like.

Write down the attributes and characteristics you will display in order to win these battles.

The enemy came to steal, rob and destroy but Jesus came to bring life in abundance (John 10:10). The enemy will speak defeat into your life, but Jesus will tell you that all things are possible.



Pray: Thank Jesus that he makes all things possible.

Allow yourself to hear Jesus speak those positive characteristics over you.

Thank Jesus you can walk in his victory.



Take Action: Try to identify when you have negative thoughts, and then submit these to Jesus.

Ask Jesus “who do you say I am?”. Take the time to hear his positive affirmation.

DAY 11



BE REALISTIC

EXODUS 18, ROMANS 5:8, EPHESIANS 2:8, PHILLIPIANS 1:6

It can be quite exhausting living up to your ideals - in fact, it can be impossible!

Sometimes we set higher expectations for ourselves than even God might expect for us. In these situations it's good to have an outside observer bring some friendly advice.

Jethro could see that what Moses was doing was good - but not sustainable. It takes a team to achieve the dream! Moses would quickly burn out if he didn't ask for help, and take a long term approach.

As you set off in a new direction for change and growth you can get excited about the outcome, but don't make the mistake of thinking it will be all up to you to get you there! You will want immediate change, but God is patient and working from a holistic approach!

This is Moses and your reminder to be realistic! You can't do this all on your own. You need to manage your self-expectations.

God's love and acceptance is not based on what you can do for him, but despite what you have done.

Whatever you do now is not *for* his love, but *because* of his love.

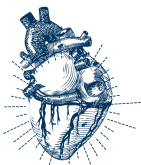


Write: What isn't changing fast enough?

Where am I putting too much pressure on myself for results?

How much of this is driven by my ego?

Is my focus on this area, obscuring my view of other things that need attention?



Pray: Dwell on the Father's love, grace and acceptance for at least 5mins.

Receive his affirmation and kindness.

DAY 12



BOUNDARIES AND BLESSING

EXODUS 19, EXODUS 20, MATTHEW 5:38-48,
MATTHEW 25:31-40

When I take the kids camping we love to build an open fire for cooking and for roasting marshmallows. But one thing we also like to do is put rocks around the outside to keep the fire from spreading and to give a visual cue to the children on how close you can stand before it will burn you.

Boundaries are important part of ensuring a good thing remains a good thing.

God does this exact thing with Moses. He requests that a boundary marker is set at the base of the mountain to protect the people from the raw power of God that could also destroy them.

He also provides a marriage contract with the nation of Israel known as the ten commandments. This will outline the expectations for the nation to enjoy the blessing of God by setting good interpersonal boundaries within the community.

Boundaries are extremely important for successful relationships, but the key is to communicate these expectations early and clearly between the parties. This should not be a one-way communication, but should also include listening to the expectations of the other in order to form a common understanding.

Often our “enemies” are those who have not respected the boundaries (sometimes because we have not communicated these). If a person continues to break your personal boundary, speak to them about it - this will usually be met with great respect. However, in some cases a perpetrator will not listen and you may need to establish a greater distance until your boundaries are respected.

Jesus had healthy boundary lines, however he chose to lay them down in order to love you completely. He was not a “victim”. He knew he had the power to resist his crucifixion, yet he willingly embraced it to demonstrate his love.

He chose to relinquish the boundary of self in order to extend his love toward his enemies. This is only possible when we have chosen to die to our ego and take the initiative to bless our enemies.

Will you do the same?

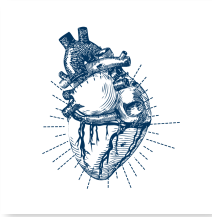


Write: What personal boundaries do I need to establish or reinstate?

How can I clearly communicate these?

What does it mean to bless your enemy?

Who will I lay down my life for in order to bless them?



Pray: Let me have your heart for people.

Help me have courage to have the difficult conversations with people I care about.



Take Action: Schedule a coffee catchup with some one you need to reinstate boundaries.

Research how to start these difficult conversations.

DAY 13



LITTLE BY LITTLE

EXODUS 23, MARK 1:1-3

Israel have received a promise from the LORD that they will take possession of the land of Canaan. This is not unlike the dreams you may have for your life, or the promises God has whispered into your heart about your future.

Sometimes these promises from God seem extravagant and beyond the realm of possibility. That's not a reason to dismiss

them, but to dig deeper into the one who makes them possible!

The angel of the LORD (aka the angel of the presence) will go ahead of the people to make a way through the wilderness. He is their leader and the LORD's name is in him. At the very least he is a pointer to Jesus but more likely he is Jesus pre-incarnate. How the Hebrews relate to him will determine their success (Exodus 23:21)!

I find it both encouraging and frustrating at how this mission will be accomplished. The promised land will be conquered "little by little" (Exodus 23:30). When conquering new territory, there comes a point when you feel like telling God - just give me the land already! At this point you really have to dig deep.

However, when I take the opportunity to stand back I am encouraged at my progress so far. God doesn't promise an easy ride. He does say it will be a constant push forward until you are capable of governing the entire land well (Exodus 23:30-31).

It may seem inconsequential that there are requirements for justice and mercy (Exodus 23:1-9), requirements for good stewardship of resources (Exodus 23:10-13), and requirements to honour God with your wealth with celebrations of His goodness, but these are crucial principles to observe if you are to succeed in realising God's promise.

By focussing on the little things in your life that test your character, you will inadvertently grow into the person that can carry the larger vision.



Pray: LORD Show me three things that I need to change this week to be a better steward of my character.



Write: What are the three things that the LORD has asked me to focus on?



Take Action: Schedule a catch up with a trusted friend or mentor to discuss those three things that you are going to change and how you will implement them.

DAY 14



LIVING IN COMMUNION

EXODUS 24, HEBREWS 12;18-29, REVELATION 4

Take a moment to put yourself in this story. Imagine being one of the elders invited to have a meal with the LORD (Exodus 24:9-11). Both joy and trepidation filled their hearts.

This important moment is establishing the covenant between God and the nation. Later on this moment will be referred to as the marriage between the LORD and Israel (Jeremiah 2:2). Just like wedding guests are invited to the reception, the

elders join the LORD to celebrate this momentous occasion with an intimate meal.

Hebrews 12:24 tells us that Jesus established a new covenant that is better than the first one that was established with the nation of Israel.

Some additional reading through Galatians 3:15 - 6:18 will highlight:

- * The new covenant is grace centred, the old was law centred.

- * The new covenant deals with the problem, the old covenant dealt with the symptoms

- * The new covenant is inclusive, the old covenant was exclusive

- * The new covenant empowers and equips, while the old covenant constrained and condemned.

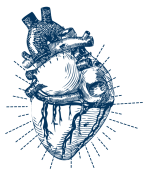
Just like Moses and his elders were invited to a meal with the LORD to celebrate the covenant, you are invited to the heavenly Jerusalem in the presence of thousands of angels in joyful assembly!

This will be something marvellous to behold!



Write: Communion with God is an essential part of the Christian experience.

What are some of the ways that you can intentionally “commune” with Him.



Pray: God is everywhere. He fills all of creation (Acts 17:28).

Ask him to make you aware of his presence in a place that you least expect.

Spend time contemplating the reality of his presence in the least expected places.

Ask the LORD to show you his Heavenly Jerusalem like he did the Apostle John (Revelation 4).



Take Action: Awareness of the LORD’s presence is the goal to any spiritual discipline.

Learn a new Christian spiritual discipline that heightens your awareness of God.

DAY 15



SMASHING OLD BELIEFS

EXODUS 32:1-20, GENESIS 1:26-28, COLOSSIANS 1:15-20,
1 JOHN 4:4

After Moses 40 days absence, Aaron decides he must lead the people by creating a focal point for their worship. Enter the golden calf!

With hindsight, we know that God has forbidden any **graven** image to be made of him (Exodus 20:4). But this has been communicated to Aaron yet. So why a calf Aaron?

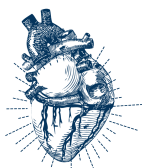
“Likely, this has to do with a conscious attempt to imitate a common practice found in the temples of many of the nations in the Ancient Near East. For example in Egypt it was common to worship a calf idol known as Apis. In some cases a king was depicted seated upon the calf as a way of emphasizing his divinity. Perhaps Aaron’s purpose in creating a golden calf was not to create an idol of God but a platform upon which the invisible God would sit.” ([The Meaning of the Golden Calf](#) by Jonathan Lipnick).

Either way, this constituted an old belief system that would inhibit the revelation of God. Moses instructions are to smash and grind this idol to powder so that a greater revelation could take its place - namely the only image of the divine is mankind!



Write: Write down what you think is stopping you achieving your goals right now.

Now write down the reasons that these shouldn’t stop you.



Pray: Show me the places that I’m limiting you LORD.

Show me what is actually possible when you inhabit me.



Take Action: Comparison is one of the ways we trick ourselves into thinking that our life is harder, and our goals less likely to be realised.

Turn off social media for a week, and notice when you are making judgements against people.

Celebrate their wins as yours as well, and you'll find that you will have more energy and enthusiasm.

DAY 16



RADIANT GLORY

EXODUS 33:7-23, EXODUS 34, NUMBERS 6:22-27,
2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

After Moses has come down the mountain to a golden calf and smashed the tablets of stone, he returns up the mountain for a second meeting.

As quickly as the covenant was made the people broke it and Moses broke the tablets to illustrate this. Now he must return up the mountain for a new set of tablets, prophetically

pointing to the new covenant that Jesus would one day institute.

Through the narrative we are invited inside the tent of meeting, and into the cleft of the rock. We glimpse the intimate relationship that both Joshua and Moses have with the LORD.

As this relationship develops Moses learns about God's grace, compassion, love and faithfulness and this physically changes his countenance. He now shines God brightly.

Whenever Moses speaks to the people he must veil his face because the presence of the LORD is so powerfully radiating through him. However, when he speaks with the LORD he removes his veil like a bride for her bridegroom.

Moses has a new intimate and vulnerable relationship with God that gets deeper by the day. May you also be transformed from glory to glory!



Commit to Growth:

How will I:

1. Strengthen my relationship with God?
2. Set my direction? - How will I get there?
Who will I need with me?
3. Take steps of faith?



Pray

Be more curious with God:

1. Ask him more questions.
2. Share with him more of your thoughts and fears.
3. Contemplate his glory
(2 Corinthians 3:18)



Take Action: Share your growth plan with an accountability partner.

DAY 17



SKILLED SERVICE

EXODUS 35, EXODUS 36:1-6, JEREMIAH 29:11,
EPHESIANS 2:10

While up the mountain the LORD commands Moses, “Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you” (Exodus 25:9).

The LORD is quite meticulous in the details of the tabernacle so we skipped over Exodus 25 -31 earlier. But you will notice in today’s passages that the LORD cares deeply about the

things that an artisan cares for: quality of materials, excellence in workmanship, artistic beauty, and attention to detail.

You would be remiss to think that this is unique to the building of the tabernacle.

Actually, the LORD cares deeply about his creation, his creatures and even the work coming from your hands!

You are God's masterpiece (Ephesians 2:10). He has given you skills to serve others in ways that reflect the pattern of his kingdom.



Write: What am I good at?

What am I passionate about?

Who am I called to serve?

Where do these intersect?



Pray: LORD fill me with the Spirit of God for wisdom, understanding and knowledge with all kind of skills to serve you more fully (Exodus 35:31).



Take Action: After praying for infused wisdom and skill expect God to guide you to new pursuits, or increase your passion in an area!

Follow these with renewed interest!

DAY 18



GOD'S RESTING PLACE

EXODUS 40, GENESIS 1, GENESIS 2:1-3, 1 CORINTHIANS 5:17,
1 CORINTHIANS 6:19

The tabernacle is now set up.

The plan from heaven is now built on earth.

This completes the new creation moment for the nation of Israel! Their journey out of the chaos of slavery somewhat

mirrors the story of forming the earth from the chaos of the waters in Genesis 1.

But the building of the tabernacle intentionally parallels to the story of creation with much more detail. Beginning with the tent being stretched out (Exodus 26:7, Genesis 1:1, Psalm 103:2); the temple veil (Exodus 30:18, Genesis 1:2); the laver of bronze sea (Exodus 30:18, Genesis 1:9); the light stand (Exodus 30:18, Genesis 1:14); the winged Cherubim (Exodus 25:20; Genesis 1:20); Aaron the high priest (Exodus 28:1, Genesis 2:1); and finishing with God's completion and blessing (Ex 39:43; Genesis 2:2-3). Each tabernacle component represents the creation of the earth account.

We now understand that this tabernacle is a new mini garden of Eden - a place for man and God to meet. A place that God fills with his presence!

This tabernacle was built to the pattern of heaven to illustrate heaven on earth. But it was also built to illustrate what God has built to dwell inside of you.

The new covenant that Jesus instituted brought God to his final home - inside you. You are the tabernacle of the Holy Spirit. The place where his Holy Spirit dwells.



Write: If everything really was new, what would change in you? What would change for you?



Pray: Show me the new Eden you have built inside of me. Spend some time exploring that Eden with Jesus by allowing him to guide your thoughts and imagination.

Write down what you see, hear, sense or feel and then analyse it afterward to test and see if this is from the LORD.

DAY 19



FIND YOUR LANE

NUMBERS 4, EPHESIANS 4:22-24

Now the rubber hits the road.

The tabernacle is a moving temple. It is situated at the heart of the community and the tribes of Israel camp around it.

It must be packed down and setup daily as they follow the LORD through the wilderness. When the tabernacle is not

being transported, it is daily operating under the guidance of the priests.

Moses requires a team of people who will work systematically in their assigned roles to serve the nation. Every person is required to carry the heart of God for the benefit of the tribes.

Understanding your assignment in the LORD's big picture will provide meaning and purpose for your life. Don't expect others to share your concerns as your role is unique. At the same time, your contribution should complement others roles to carry forward the mission at hand.

This daily operation points to the habits in your life that will carry you to your destination. Knowing who you need to become will reveal the daily habits you need to form.



Write: What is my assignment?

What habits do I need to form in order to get me to where I am headed?

What habits are stopping me getting there?



Pray: Help me understand my role in the bigger picture. What do I need to carry?

What do I need to put down for others to carry?

What is the first habit I need to start?



Take Action: Start replacing the old habits with new ones.

Share these intentions with an accountability partner.

When you have found your lane, stay in it!

DAY 20



EXPLORE GOD'S PROMISES

NUMBERS 13:1-25, 2 CORINTHIANS 1:20, 1 TIMOTHY 6:12,
JAMES 4:2-3

Moses sends spies into the land of Canaan to explore the promised land.

This land has been promised as inheritance to Israel, but they have no idea on the size, beauty or effort required to take hold of it as their own.

I heard a story about a father who saved every penny after the first world war to get his family to the “land of opportunity” in America. The boat trip took six weeks, and the family survived on rations they brought with them. When they departed the ship the captain stopped them at the exit and said “I don’t remember seeing you at the dining hall.” The father replied, “Sir, we spent all our money on the ticket. We couldn’t afford to eat at the dining hall.” To which the captain replied, “the meals were included in the tickets!”

Many Christians do not understand the breadth and depth of the promises of God. These promises are “Yes and Amen” in Christ. We must explore the scriptures to see what truly becomes ours when we receive Christ!

A second tragedy also exists in this world - Christians who know the promises, but do not lay hold of them! The promises of God are much like the land the spies explored. They contain strongholds that must be broken and enemies to evict. The bounty is locked up waiting for you to plunder with God’s help.

Your salvation came by walking out of Egypt, but your promises will require you to fight for them one after the other and “little by little”!

Yes, when Jesus returns you will see all of those promises realised. But you actually have the choice to start fighting the spiritual “fight of faith“ in order to realise these promises on earth now.

Are those promises worth fighting for? If not, you need to go explore them again!



Write: What is my greatest need right now?

Find a promise in scripture that addresses this need.

Make this promise personal.



Pray: LORD, show me what is available to me now that I wasn't aware of.



Take Action: Memorise this personal promise scripture by reading and reciting it everyday.

DAY 21



GOOD NEWS

NUMBERS 13:26-33, NUMBERS 14.

The spies return from the promise land but they bring back two conflicting reports. Two spies say one thing, ten spies say another.

One report brings good news! The other report is bad.

One report requires faith. The other report peddles fear.

One report says God is big! The other report says the enemy is big.

The bad news travels faster and now the mission to take the promised land is compromised! As a result Israel will wander around the wilderness for 40 years, waiting for another generation to rise up full of faith so that they can lay hold of the promise.

Joshua and Caleb, the two spies who brought a good report, are the only men from the previous generation who will walk into the promised land.

Numbers 14 may seem like an odd place to end this journey into freedom. Israel is now stuck in the wilderness fearful and unwilling to go any further.

But this does highlight the dilemma you will likely find yourself in as you push forward into your next endeavour.

Will you believe the good news, or be sidelined by the bad?

Will you share the good news, or let the bad news drown it out?

My prayer, is that you will remember the miracles that God has already done in your life and know that he has only just begun!

I hope this devotional has helped you break away from Egypt, and lay your eyes on the promised land.

May you go on to lay hold of that which Christ has already won for you!

Grace and Peace!



Write: What dilemma do I face right now?
What is the bad news?
What is the good news?
Why is the good news more compelling?



Pray: LORD, let me know your goodness to the core of my being. Let me be overwhelmed by the good news of God that it becomes a river running out of me.



Take Action: Limit your exposure to fear mediums. Ensure you are getting enough good news in your diet to maintain confidence in God's ability to turn all things for his good. *Romans 8:28*

Choose to think positively.

If you have benefited from this devotional share it with a friend or a testimony on our private Facebook group [here](#).



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

After nearly two decades in bi-vocational ministry as a Civil Engineer, Nathan and his wife Mareesa joined Beaches Church as the Lead Pastors. They share a passion for bringing personal and community transformation through the Father's unconditional love and expositing God's word.