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**NEWS & EVENTS – FEBRUARY 2022**

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*Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. (Exodus 1:8)*

For quite some time I have taken advantage of a Bible Reading Plan that guides me through the opportunity to read through the entire Bible in two years, with an Old Testament and a New Testament reading encountered each day. The exception is Sundays, which is set aside for not only corporate worship but for a day of meditation and processing what we have read daily during the week. Sounds good in theory. This Daily Bible Reading Plan is provided to encourage our church to engage in what has been a New Year's resolution for so many for so long. You know how it goes. A well-intentioned believer decides that they are finally going to get serious about reading the Bible from cover to cover, as they say. But even when we resolve to do something we don't always gain resolution. And even when we are diligent about our daily devotional life it can quickly become a duty and sadly, even drudgery. Unless we process the process.

The Old Testament reading for 2022 assigned for February begins with Exodus chapters 1-3. Now three chapters is not an exorbitant amount to read but it is significant. I began reading the first chapter and got through eight verses and was stopped in that day's reading as I was riveted to what the eighth verse was saying. I've read this verse before too many times to count. And I've always thought it was an interesting tidbit of information. But on the first day of February, in the year of 2022 AD, I thought I would reflect awhile on this verse. This is the third day I'm thinking about it. Suffice it to say it has intrigued me. It has impacted me. Listen to the poetic tone of the King James Version's translation of this verse.

*8 Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.*

This new king *knew not* Joseph. Since my first attempted journey through the Word of God I've had that verse stored in the memory bank of my processor for years...without processing what the Most High God wanted me to process. That's often the problem with the people of God. We can take things for granted and miss what God is saying to us. The processing, or thinking, part is critical for me to understand life from the Lord's perspective. Today I am thinking that in the first chapter of Exodus we are given the context for the rest of the Exodus story. The leaving of Egypt is typical for our spiritual journey with the Lord. The change came upon the people of Israel when Joseph was taken for granted. Egypt is pictured as a type of sin. A place which was under subjection of many different gods. And the King of Sin arose which knew not Joseph...or paid any attention to Joseph's God. Joseph became a byword, not only among Egyptians, but also among some within the nation of Israel as a whole. But God heard the prayers of faithful people, who although they lived under bondage and oppression, they remembered the God who sent Joseph into Egypt to preserve His people alive.

In the Bible, Egypt is a type, or representation, of a culture in the grip of a pantheon of many gods. At the head of this pantheon is a human ruler who thinks he is the ruler of the gods. And he knows not Joseph. Joseph is a type of Christ. Think about it. Christ was sent to this world under the bondage of many gods, ruled by one who is the enemy of God's people. When you think about it's easy to see that in our culture today. Exodus will teach us that when you live in a culture that knows not Joseph, evil rules. When evil rises its purpose is to extinguish life as God intends for it to be. When Jesus is treated casually even among the people of God, the culture is in trouble. This is where we are today like so many nations that rest in the dustbin of history. Abortion and slavery is not hidden away anymore. It is with us and has been for a long time. What's new in my thinking is the increased awareness of the understanding that this world is not our home. When we process the Word of God, which comes to give us life in the midst of a culture of death, we will find that too many of us like it here too much. We are hearing the prayers of a remnant of faithful worshippers of the Most High God pleading...

*Arise, O God, judge the earth! For it is You who possesses all the nations. (Psalms 82:8)*

Process this...The Enemy of our souls has an evil agenda that has never abated. His purpose is to use evil men to exterminate and enslave the people of God. Rise up today and pray for God to deliver His people. Follow King Jesus as He leads us home. Be a blessing to the lovers of this world on your way out of this world. Take the time to process the Word of God...You'll learn new things along the way.

Blessings to you,  
Pastor Sam