

## GOD IS POWERFUL, OUR PROTECTOR, OUR PROVIDER

**-“Do Lord, Oh Do Lord, Oh do You Remember me!”**

**-That’s what the Israelites were saying to God when they were in slavery for 400 years in Egypt.**

**-Today we are going to look into the life of Moses and see that God remembered Moses and His people and gave them His Power, His Protection and His Provision.**

**-How many of you want God’s power in your life? (...)**

**-How many of you want God’s protection? (...)**

**-How many of you want God’s provision in your life? (...)**

**-Well, great! You are ready to listen!**

**-The story begins when Moses was called at *80 years old* to go and rescue the Israelites from the land of Egypt. Pharaoh was keeping the Israelites as slaves and using them to build his great cities. They were in bondage. Moses was the one that God called to set His people free.**

**-Let’s begin by reading our first verse together on our Verse Sheet to hear what the Lord says to Moses. (Exodus 8:1 “Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what the Lord says: Let my people go, *so that they may worship me.*’”)**

**-According to this verse, why does God want His people set free? (So they may worship Him.)**

**-As in every story, it is important to apply it to our own lives today. So we are going to do this with this story today as well. Do you think God wants to set us free from our own bondages so we may worship Him just as He did the Israelites? (...)**

**-What are some things that you think He wants to set us free from so we may worship Him freely? (Sin, our worries, our troubles, our cares, etc...)**

**-All throughout His Word He tells us this. He sent His Son to free us from our sins and cares by trusting in Him so we can freely worship Him.**

**-Not only did He want His people to worship Him, He wanted them to *know* Him. He wanted them to *love* Him and He wanted them to *trust and obey* Him.**

**-He tried to show His children, the Israelites, that He was worthy of their worship and their trust and obedience by showing them His power and protection in the 10 plagues. Even after the 3<sup>rd</sup> plague, God told Moses again to tell Pharaoh He wanted His people released to worship Him. Let’s read it together on our Verse Sheet, #2 (Exodus 9:1-4 “Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, says: ‘Let my people go, *so that they may worship me.*’ If you refuse to let them go and continue to hold them back, the hand of the Lord will bring a terrible plague on your livestock in the field - on your horses, donkeys and camels and on your cattle, sheep and goats. But the Lord will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and that of Egypt, so that no animal belonging to the Israelites will die.’”)**

**-This again shows the Israelite people that God was a very personal God. He desired their worship. And He desires ours as well.**

**-In these verses it also shows that He has the strong *power* that can protect them while pouring out His power and judgement on Egypt. They needed their livestock for their livelihood once they left and God protected them.**

**-But, in each of the plagues, Pharaoh's heart was hardened. He would not let them go.**

**-The tenth plague was the final chapter of the Israelites slavery in Egypt under that Pharaoh. At that time, this Pharaoh was the most powerful man on earth, but He was no match for our Heavenly Father, the One true God.**

**-Throughout all these plagues, God's *power* was shown.**

**-Moses had to trust God, obey Him and go and tell Pharaoh. And God's mighty hand was at work.**

**-Are there times you have to trust God, even though you cannot see the outcome ahead of you? (...)**

**-Are you willing to trust in Him and His power to see you through even in the midst of the struggle? (...)**

**-He is the same God yesterday, today and forever! His power is for you and for me.**

**-Does anyone remember what the tenth plague was? (All the first born of Egypt died.)**

**-What did the Israelites have to do in order for the Lord to pass over their homes to keep their firstborn from being struck down? (They had to kill a one-year old male lamb without blemish and take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes. This way, when the Lord went out that night, He saw the blood and passed over their home and their firstborn was saved.)**

**-This is a very clear picture of God's power and a very clear picture of what Jesus has done for us today. Jesus was the perfect lamb that was slain for our sins so God's wrath and judgement passes over us. That is His power in our lives, to save us from our sins and to set us free from bondage.**

**-Remember when John saw Jesus coming to Him to be baptized, he said "Behold, the Lamb of God." So it is through Jesus Christ, His death on the cross and His shedding of His blood that we can experience God's *power* in our own lives. To be set free from our sins so that we may serve Him and *worship* Him, wherever we are.**

**-He gives us the power to serve Him wherever we live. He gives us the power to serve with love our family members, coworkers or workers that help us, and even those who cross our paths every day.**

**-Let's read our God Statement on our Verse Sheet, #3: ("God is all Powerful! His power works for the good of those who trust Him. His power will bring deliverance and reveal His glory. I need God's power this week to ...")**

**-Someone share what you may need God's power this week for: (I need God's power today to... serve Him by serving others, obey Him, trust Him, understand Him and His Word. I need His power which brings me peace, wisdom and understanding of what He wants me to do daily.)**

**-You might be suffering from loneliness. You may say: "I need God's power to overcome loneliness."**

-You may need His power for physical healing, spiritual healing, or even His power to forgive.”

-Let’s remember God’s power. He is our Almighty *Powerful* God Who freely gives.

-Let’s continue with our story and learn more about God. The Hebrew people have been in bondage for 400 years and are now set free by the power of God.

-God, Himself, is leading His people. He told them to get ready so as soon as Pharaoh’s heart changed, they would leave. They left and left very wealthy. The Egyptian people gave them gold, silver and whatever they asked of them. They left with all their livestock too. God provided for their trip.

-Guess how many people left at that time? (2 million!)

-God is leading this large group of people by day with a pillar of clouds, and at night, when they can’t see the clouds, He leads them by a pillar of fire.

-His people have seen His power, and now they are faithfully following Him.

-God took them and led them in the wilderness for 40 years because God had a lot to teach them. He led them south because He knew if He led them north, they would get involved in a lot of wars and would run back to Egypt. He wanted time to teach them and lead them to follow Him and trust Him no matter what.

-So they came to the Red Sea and they turned to look back and there is Pharaoh’s army chasing after them.

-Let’s read verse #4 and see what God told Moses to do: (Exodus 14:13-14 “Moses answered the people, ‘Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.’”)

-Now we see God’s *Protection*. Moses puts out His staff and the Red Sea is parted and there is dry land for the Hebrew people to walk across. Moses leads His people across the dry land to the other side of the Red Sea. The Egyptian army follows and they are covered with the water and drown. Just as the Lord said, He will fight for them and they just had to be still. These Egyptians were never seen again, just as the Lord said.

-What can we learn from this? (That God protects us and fights for us.)

-Look back at that verse where it says ‘Do not fear, stand by and see the salvation that the Lord will do for you.’”

-God’s protection is our deliverance.

-God has said in His Word that if He is for us, who can be against us.

-Let’s say that out loud: “If God is for us, who can be against us!”

-The Hebrew people stood still there and saw the mighty deliverance from God. His *Protection*.

-Let’s read the God statement for His Protection, #5: (“God is my Shield, my Protector, an ever present Help in times of trouble. He is my Salvation. I need God’s protection this week to....”)

-What do you need God’s protection or deliverance from this week? (fear, anxiety, etc.)

**-When fear, anxiety or worry come our way, it is saying we are not putting our trust in the Lord.**

**-When we get a fearful thought or worry, just stand still. Look up to Jesus and say, "Jesus, help me in this. Take it away. Show me what I need to do."**

**-Speak those words to our Deliverer, our Protector.**

**-You may need protection as you deal with a family member or friend in forgiveness, or when lines of communication may have been crossed or maybe to help you share more of what your needs may be in a loving way. We all need God's protection as we walk this out in His way.**

**-After God had set His people free from Egypt and saved them by parting the Red Sea, guess what? The people started grumbling!**

**-Can you believe that? That started grumbling and complaining!**

**-Here God had just delivered them from Egypt and parted the Red Sea.**

**-Do we do that in our on lives? God solved a problem, helped us get peace and joy and then the very next thing, we start grumbling and complaining again about something else?(...)**

**-We do have that tendency to grumble and complain.**

**-God had led the people across the Red Sea and now they are heading towards the land of Sinai. It is a little like a wilderness. There is not a lot of food there so they started to grumble because there wasn't much to eat.**

**-"Why has God led them here?" they asked? Even though they were in bondage, they had enough food to eat. Here they were without food.**

**-Let's read our next verse to see what God does for them, #6: (Exodus 16:4 "Then the Lord said to Moses, 'I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions.'")**

**-God calls manna from Heaven to fall every night from the sky. It is not a natural manmade food, but a supernatural food. They were to go out and gather an omer (which is two quarts) every morning. That was their food for the day. On the sixth day, they were to gather two portions because God was not going to provide manna on the Sabbath because the people were to rest. But, if people went out to gather more than the Lord told them to gather, guess what happened the next morning? (It was ruined. It would have worms in it.)**

**-This was the test that God gave them. He said I am going to *daily provide* for you (for 2 million people) for 40 years, and God gave them instructions on what He wanted them to do and to trust Him and obey Him. Not to step out of His will.**

**-Many times when we step out of God's will, things begin to spoil, don't they? (...)**

**-When we try to do it our way, or fix it our way, it usually becomes a mess. This is what God is trying to remind us in this story, to stay in His timing and will and watch His hands of protection.**

**-Let's talk about Manna for a minute. Manna actually points to Jesus Christ. It was a supernatural gift from Heaven that was not from earth to help the Israelites. That is the same with Jesus Christ.**

**-Jesus was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.**

**-Jesus has been called the Bread of Life, He is our manna.**

**-Every day we are to look to Jesus. We are to go and pick up the bread, His Word, and read it daily, and let it nourish our bodies and help us to complete that day.**

**-Sometimes if you don't have the Bible close by or can't read it because you don't have glasses, ability, or time, that Word can be communicating with Him. Speaking His name, Jesus. "Jesus, help me." "Be with me today." "Let me know what you want me to do."**

**-Let's read our God statement, #7: (God is my Provider. His mercies are new every morning. He knows exactly what I need and wants me to trust Him completely. This week I need God to provide...)**

**-What are some things you need God to provide you with this week? (love for others, showing His love for others, showing His love for me, enjoyment [enjoying His mercies every morning and sharing that with others], provide a good listener, a kind word or the ability to give one, etc...)**

**-Notice in this statement that it says that His mercies are "new every morning"?**

**-How does that encourage you today? (That no matter what I did yesterday, He forgives and showers His new mercies on me today.)**

**-How does the statement "He knows exactly what I need" make you feel? (...)**

**-It actually comes from Matthew 6:8 "Do not be like them (the pagans), for your Father knows exactly what you need *before* you ask Him."**

**-That is how powerful He is, He knows exactly what we *need* BEFORE we ask!**

**-Key words here are He knows what we *need*, *what we truly need and not what we think we need*.**

**-God is an all *Powerful* God. He is our *Protector*. He is our *Provider*. And because of that we can trust Him in ALL THINGS.**

**-What He did for the Israelites, He promises to do for us as well.**

**-He is God, the One Who wants to protect us and deliver us from our sins. He is also our great Provider, the greatest provision being His one and only Son to die for our sins.**

**-So, when we think of God as all Powerful, our Protector and our Provider, even if and when things seem so bleak and we don't see it right away, remember the greatest power and provision He gave us is His love and presence in the midst of our sins and struggles!**

**-His love is so deep that He willingly gave us His Son to provide a way for us to have a relationship with Him. Then He provided His Holy Spirit, His very presence that is forever with us, so that we will never be alone. His Spirit is powerful, He is protecting and He is providing of all that we need to live our days with Him. That in itself is worth worshipping Him for!**

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**VERSE SHEET**

1. Exodus 8:1 “Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what the Lord says: Let my people go, *so that they may worship me.*’”
2. Exodus 9:1-4 “Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Go to Pharaoh and say to him , “This is what the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, says: ‘Let my people go, *so that they may worship me.*’ If you refuse to let them go and continue to hold them back, the hand of the Lord will bring a terrible plague on your livestock in the field - on your horses, donkeys and camels and on your cattle, sheep and goats. But the Lord will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and that of Egypt, so that no animal belonging to the Israelites will die.’”
3. “God is all *Powerful!* His power works for the good of those who trust Him. His power will bring deliverance and reveal His glory. I need God’s power this week to ...”
4. Exodus 14:13-14 “Moses answered the people, ‘*Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today.* The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.’”
5. “God is *my Shield, my Protector,* an ever present Help in times of trouble. He is my Salvation. I need God’s protection this week to....”
6. Exodus 16:4 “Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions.’”
7. God is my *Provider!* His mercies are new every morning. He knows exactly what I need and wants me to trust Him completely. This week I need God to provide...