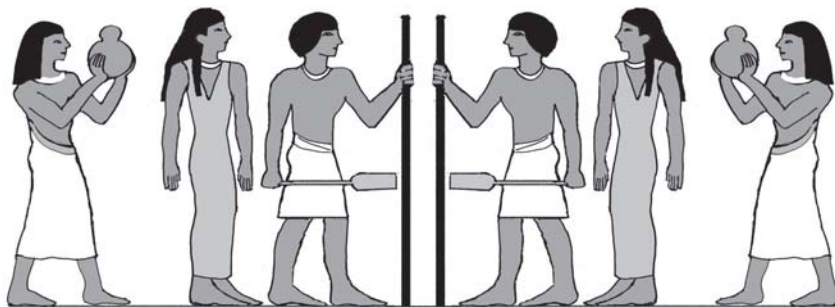
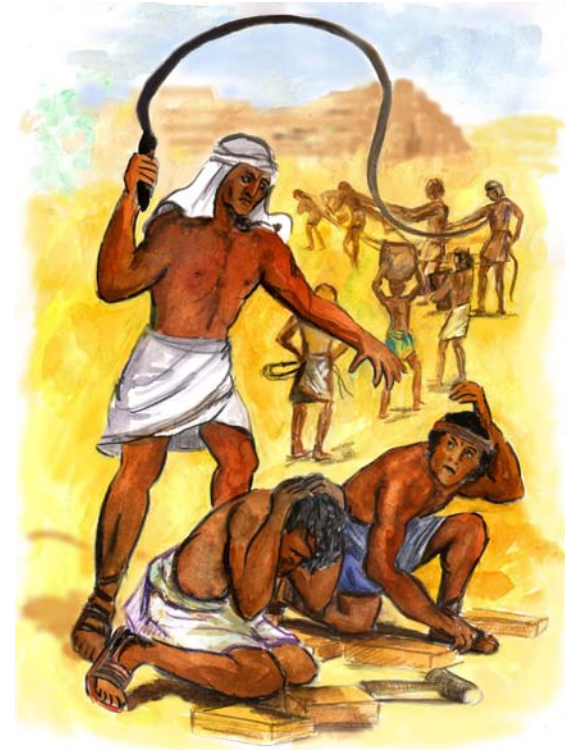


Recitations

1. "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
(John 8:32)
2. The Lord gives freedom to the prisoners.
The Lord opens the eyes of the blind;
The Lord raises those who are bowed down;
The Lord loves the righteous.
(Psalm 146:7-8)
3. The Lord is my light and my salvation;
Whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life;
Of whom shall I be afraid?
(Psalm 27:1)
4. The children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them.
(Exodus 1:7)

Slavery in Egypt



Week One

Daily Readings for Families

Day One

In the book of Genesis we learn about a man called Abraham. The Lord made a covenant with Abraham, promising to make his family into a great nation and give them the land of Canaan if they followed the Lord. In time, Abraham's son, Isaac, had a son of his own named Jacob. Later Jacob was given another name—Israel. So his descendants are referred to as the children of Israel.

Israel had twelve sons. One of them was named Joseph. Through the Lord's leading, Joseph became a great leader in Egypt. So when there was a famine, Joseph was able to save his father, Israel, and all his brothers and their families. They all moved to Egypt where they were treated as honored guests and given good land to live on for many years. They stayed in Egypt and did not return to the land of Canaan, even after the time had come for Joseph to die.

And Joseph said to his brethren, "I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

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

So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

(Genesis 50:24-26)



Extra Readings

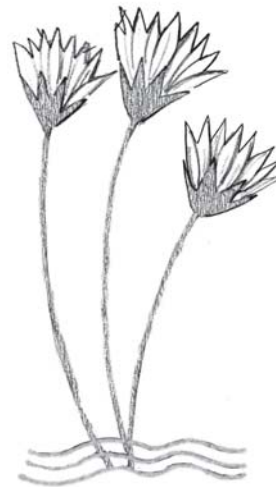
Then Jesus said..."If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.... Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

(John 8:31-36)

To do evil from freedom, appears as freedom, but it is slavery, because that freedom is from the love of self and from the love of the world, and these loves are from hell. Such freedom is actually turned into slavery after death....

But to do good from freedom is freedom itself, because it is from love to the Lord and from love towards the neighbor, and these loves are from heaven. This freedom also remains after death, and then becomes freedom indeed....

(*New Jerusalem and Its Heavenly Doctrine* 142)



Extra Readings

He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.
(Luke 4:18-19)

It is slavery when evil desires and falsities predominate. It is freedom when affections for good and truth predominate.
(see *Arcana Coelestia* 892)

Any freedom coming from the Lord is real freedom; but any that comes from hell and makes itself at home with a person is slavery.
(*True Christian Religion* 495)



Day Two

The Pharaoh and other leaders of Egypt began to be worried because there were so many of the children of Israel. They were afraid that the Israelites might soon become more powerful than the Egyptians themselves.

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

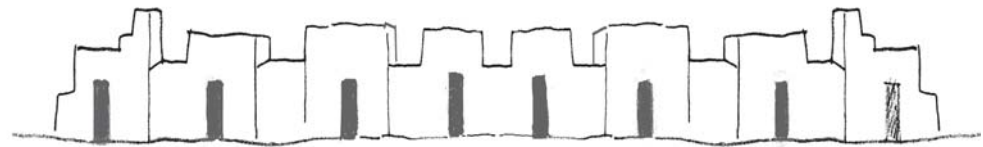
But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them.

Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.

And he said to his people, "Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we; come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and so go up out of the land."

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

(Exodus 1:6-11)



Day Three

The Egyptians made the children of Israel into slaves, forcing them to make bricks and build cities for them. Then Pharaoh made an even crueller law. He ordered that all the boy children born to the Israelites should be put to death. He did this because the Egyptians did not want any more boys growing up who might become fighting men for the children of Israel.

But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were in dread of the children of Israel.

So the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor.

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

(Exodus 1:12-14)



Extra Readings

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
Whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the strength of my life;
Of whom shall I be afraid?

(Psalm 27:1)

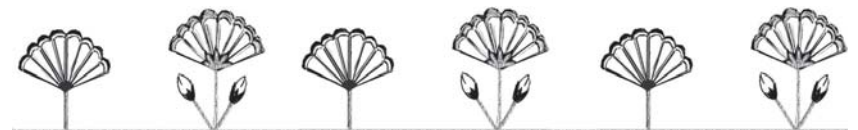
I removed his shoulder from the burden;
His hands were freed from the baskets.

You called in trouble, and I delivered you;
I answered you in the secret place of thunder....

(Psalm 81:6-7)

Being self-led is slavery, while being led by the
Lord is freedom.

(*Arcana Coelestia* 892)



Day Seven

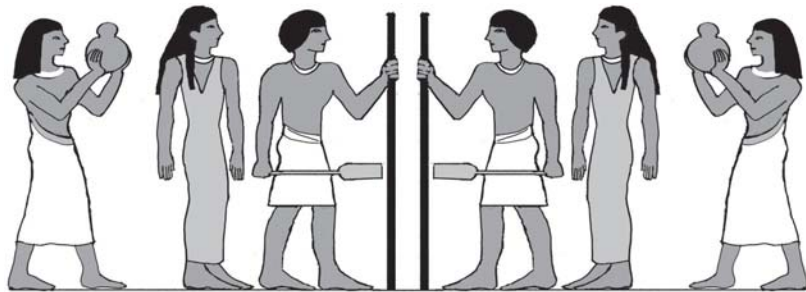
The children of Israel had an even harder time under another new Pharaoh. They called to the Lord for help, and the Lord heard them.

Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage.

So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them.

(Exodus 2:23-25)



Day Four

One of the babies born to a woman of the children of Israel was saved in a special way. She hid him for several months after he was born. Then, when she could no longer hide him easily, she made a little ark or basket out of bulrushes. She covered the outside with pitch or tar so that it would be waterproof and float. Then she put Moses in the ark and put the ark in the river.

So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive."

(Exodus 1:22)

And a man of the house of Levi went and took *as wife* a daughter of Levi.

So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he *was* a beautiful *child*, she hid him three months.

But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid *it* in the reeds by the river's bank.

And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him.

(Exodus 2:1-4)



Day Five

The little baby in the ark was found by the daughter of the Pharaoh—the princess of the land of Egypt—when she came down to the river with some of her maids to wash. Pharaoh's daughter felt sorry for the baby and so she took him to raise as her own son. She gave him his name, Moses, which means "drawn out of the water." Without knowing who she was, she hired Moses' own mother to look after him.

Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it.

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

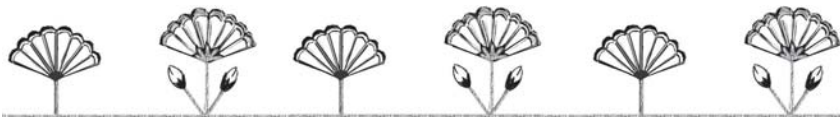
Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?"

And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the maiden went and called the child's mother.

Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him.

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

(Exodus 2:5-10)



Day Six

Moses grew up in an Egyptian palace, but he also knew that he was one of the children of Israel. One day he came to the rescue of a fellow Hebrew. This changed his life dramatically.

Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren.

So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

And when he went out the second day, behold, two Hebrew men were fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, "Why are you striking your companion?"

Then he said, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" So Moses feared and said, "Surely this thing is known!"

When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well.

(Exodus 2:11-15)

