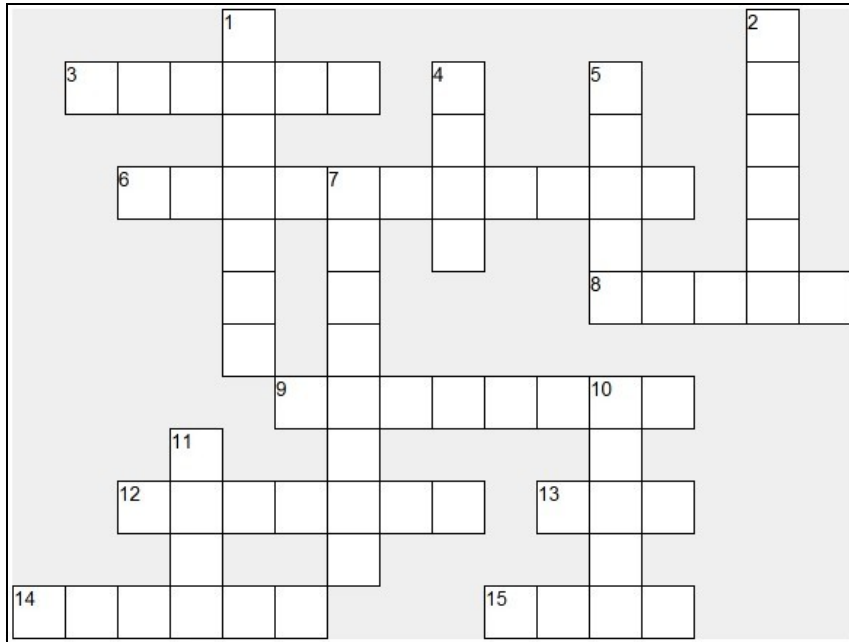


A Bible Crossword: Exodus, pt. 1

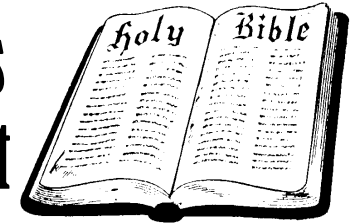


Across: 3. Trouble began for Israel when a Pharaoh arose who did not know this man. 6. The Egyptians set these over the Israelites to afflict them. 8. Because she was forced to circumcise their son, Moses' wife called Moses a husband of this. 9. Moses wife. 12. What Moses' rod became when he cast it on the ground. 13. Moses' mother put him in one made of bulrushes. 14. Moses came to this land when he fled from Egypt. 15. Moses killed an Egyptian and hid his body in this.

Down: 1. Moses' son; his name means stranger. 2. The father-in-law of Moses. 4. An angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in a flame of fire in the midst of one. 5. Moses took his father-in-law's flock to this mountain. 7. They were ordered to kill any sons born to the Hebrews. 10. Moses' brother and spokesman. 11. The tribe both of Moses' parents were from.

—All answers found in Exodus 1-4, NKJV

Chapman Acres Church of Christ



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How Bad Does It Have To Hurt?

A travelling salesman of a generation ago passed by a house with a wide front porch. The salesman heard a low wailing and turned to investigate. He saw a farmer, dressed in coveralls sitting in a rocking chair. The wailing came from an old hound dog sitting on the porch near the farmer.

Overcome with curiosity, the salesman asked the farmer, "Why is he wailing that way?"

The farmer matter-of-factly replied, "He's sitting on a nail."

Taken aback, the salesman continued, "Well, why doesn't he move?"

"It isn't hurting him enough" was the farmer's reply.

Everyone has his or her own level of tolerance for pain. There is a certain amount we are willing to accept without making changes we consider too complicated or difficult.

I've know for quite a while that I need to pay better attention to my diet, but I haven't taken any steps to change because it hasn't hurt enough. That changed last week with my first outbreak of gout. When you can't walk during the day or sleep during the night because of constant, piercing

pain, you know the time has come to make some changes to your behavior.

How much does it have to hurt before we see the need to change?

Amos records, “I blasted you with blight and mildew. When your gardens increased, Your vineyards, Your fig trees, And your olive trees, The locust devoured them; Yet you have not returned to Me,’ Says the LORD. ‘I sent among you a plague after the manner of Egypt; Your young men I killed with a sword, Along with your captive horses; I made the stench of your camps come up into your nostrils; Yet you have not returned to Me,’ Says the LORD. ‘I overthrew some of you, As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, And you were like a firebrand plucked from the burning; Yet you have not returned to Me,’ Says the LORD. ‘Therefore thus will I do to you, O Israel; Because I will do this to you, Prepare to meet your God, O Israel!’” (Amos 4:9-12).

God sent calamity after calamity upon the children of Israel to call them to repentance, but none of the hurt He inflicted upon them brought them back to Him. With grim resolution, He tells them to prepare to meet Him in judgment.

During the days of the prophets, God sent specific judgments against His people. Prophets such as Haggai explained these events specifically to the people.

Today, we do not have truly inspired men as in the days of the prophets, but we still have calamities. Turbulent weather, pernicious enemies, and even a flagging economy remind us of our need for God.

Jesus spoke of a natural disaster that occurred in His day and asked, “Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you,

no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13:4-5).

We cannot accuse those who suffer calamities of being worse sinners than others, but we must remember that all calamity is the result of sin, and whether we are victim or witness, God is calling us to repent.

The time has come to quit wailing and get off the nail.

—RAB

Prayer List

Dennis Depew	Louise Moore	Herman McKenzie
David Depew	Sara Nance	

Our prayers are with all those who have recently lost loved ones.

Gospel Meetings

7/9,16,23,30 at Sommerville at 7:00 p.m. The Jule Miller DVDs.

7/5-10 at Parkway with Paddy Kendall-Ball, M-F at 7:00 p.m.

7/6-10 VBS at New Georgia with Greg Chandler, M-F at 10 a.m.

7/12-17 at Jones Road with Lowell Sallee and Bill Hall, Sun. – Fri. at 7 p.m.

7/16-18 VBS at Brookhill with different speakers.

7/18 Young People’s Lectureship at Hughes Road in Madison with Jeff May, Edwin Crozier and Eric Reynolds

7/19-24 at Highway 157 in Cullman with Jeff May, Lessons on the Home and Family, M-F at 7 p.m.

7/19-24 at East Lawrence with Frank Jamerson

7/26-31 at Woolly Springs

7/26-29 Sugar Creek with Jim Deason