

## Bible Reading Plan Week 21

| Day          | Bible Passage  | Pray for   |
|--------------|----------------|------------|
| May 21, 2017 | Nehemiah 1-3   | Aruba      |
| May 22, 2017 | Nehemiah 4-7   | Australia  |
| May 23, 2017 | Nehemiah 8-10  | Austria    |
| May 24, 2017 | Nehemiah 11-13 | Azerbaijan |
| May 25, 2017 | Esther 1-5     | Bahamas    |
| May 26, 2017 | Esther 6-10    | Bahrain    |
| May 27, 2017 | Job 1-4        | Bangladesh |

### SAVE A DATE

Family Breakfast on Saturday, June 03  
ICA Retreat July 14-16, 2017

## ICA SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday Service @ 9:30 am & 10:45 am  
Sunday School @ 09:30 am

### INDIA CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

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**WELCOME TO**  
**ICA SUNDAY SERVICE**  
Date : May 21, 2017



## WEEKLY ICA VOICE

### THIS WEEK'S MEETING

WEDNESDAY - NIGHT PRAYER @ 07:30 PM AT ICA  
FRIDAY - FASTING AND PRAYER @ 10:30 AM AT ICA  
SATURDAY - NO MEETING  
( CHURCH OF GOD REGION CONVENTION )

**Ushers: Thomas Kurian, Sam Thomas,  
& Shanon Thomas**

### CHURCH HOME TEAM IN CHARGE THIS WEEK :

Varughese C. John and Family

WEEK OF 05/28/2017

P. A. Sam and Family & Jacob Alexander and Family

# Beyond the Wilderness

**Rev. Dr. Wilson Varkey**

God is in the business of preparing and sending his people for the divine purpose. Bible gives us immense examples of God's encounter with ordinary people and commissioning them for great works. Such an encounter of God is possible in our lives also and we need to know that God has greater purpose about our lives. Our responsibility is to submit to the will of God and obey His calling.

Moses was born into an ordinary family of Israelites in the time of their slavery in Egypt. As per the context, there is no chance that he would be alive. However, the greater purpose of God surpasses all human imaginations and triumphs. Therefore, Moses was kept alive and became a family member of Pharaoh of Egypt. He was well trained in the palace and enjoyed all the royal privileges. Perhaps everyone thought that one day Moses would be the Pharaoh of the land. But that was not the purpose of God for Moses.

Moses had to flee the land of Egypt due to the unfortunate incidents taken place there. Who knew in that time that the invisible hand of the Lord is working behind those incidents? Moses who was enjoying the royal privileges end up as a shepherd of his father-in-law in the wilderness. Clouds of disappointments and feeling of loss might have enveloped Moses in those days. However, Moses had already found out his real identity that he is not an Egyptian rather an Israelite. He has seen the afflictions of his people in slavery. Moreover, he started to realise that there is an invisible hand working behind his life to be the savior of the Hebrews.

On a particular day, Moses took the sheep beyond the wilderness and went up to Horeb, the mountain of God. This was as if he was leaving the ordinary settings of his life and entering into another spiritual plane in his life. God met with Moses in a burnish bush there and was commissioned to deliver the people of Israel from slavery. In fact, Moses was taking a risk when crossing the wilderness with the sheep. But taking that risk was never a loss for him. No one can fathom the ways of the Lord.

The Lord is expecting that his followers should take risk in their life. When they are willing to take risk, there is another spiritual avenue waiting for them. Perhaps, we will not understand what

the Lord has in store for us. But, a committed and obedient follower will later realise that the Lord is faithful and he will transform our lives to be a blessing to many people. Let this be our desire and prayer that we will go beyond the wilderness, taking risk in our lives, in order to encounter God and be commissioned for a greater work

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## PROMOTED TO GLORY

Sister Ammini Thomas, mother of Blessy was promoted to glory on Saturday, May 20th in India. Homegoing service is scheduled for Thursday, May 25th. Please pray for the comfort of her children and all family members.

### Prayer Needs:

- ◆ **Spiritual growth** ◆ **Healing** ◆ **Financial security**
- ◆ **Marriage of children in our community**

### Please pray for

- **Gregory, Bro. Rajan Koshy's 10-month old grandson**
- **Olivia, Sheeba's new born baby**
- **Pastor George Mathai in Philadelphia.**

## 10 DANGEROUS MYTHS ABOUT THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

### **4. IF ISIS WERE WIPED OUT, PERSECUTION IN PLACES LIKE IRAQ AND SYRIA WOULD DISAPPEAR.**

Indeed, ISIS is a violent offender of Christianity. Their terror efforts are wicked and all over the news. However, as widespread as ISIS is in the Middle East, when they are ousted, persecution in the region will not disappear. In a recent conversation with one of our Middle East field agents, I asked if Christians would breathe easy upon the complete removal of ISIS. His response: **"No. As long as Muslims believe the Koran, Christians in the Middle East will face persecution. It's about theology."** We want ISIS out, but that doesn't end the battle for human rights in the Middle East—specifically for Christians. It's just not that simple.

[www.opendoorsusa.org](http://www.opendoorsusa.org)