

Early Prayer January 26, 2010 Rod of Iron

John sings: *The earth is filled with Your Glory. We see Your wonders in the sky! We stand and lift up our hands for the joy of the Lord is our strength. You are worthy to open the seals. You have broken the chains and come down to free us O Lord. You have made my heart glad. I cast all my cares on You. Shout to the Lord! It breaks a heavy yoke when you shout to the Lord! O Praise Him! He is holy!*

LeAnn: All I can do right now is to pray in the Spirit. (Prays in tongues) Lord, You are such a great God. We invite Your kingdom's rule over us. We thank You for strengthening Your people. On Sunday You said that You were putting a rod of iron down our back. Thank You that You are restoring the right to rule over our enemies. We bless You for that. Thank You that You are breaking a spirit of infirmity off of Your body. You are causing Your body which has been bent over to come upright, able to stand up and see. You cannot see much from a bent over position. You are restoring vision. We invite Your Spirit to lead us and direct us that we might make intercession according to Your will O God. We want to get into the flow of Your river and Your power this morning. That is Your purpose to go before and to be our rear guard.

John sings: *We do not bow our knees to the prince of the air. We know the truth has set us free.*

LeAnn: This morning the Lord has highlighted Exodus chapter 1. We know that this is about Israel in Egypt under Pharaoh after Joseph died. Ex. 1:7 says, *"But the descendants of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly. They multiplied and grew exceedingly strong and the land was full of them."* I looked this up in the original language and it says that they were becoming like a swarm. They were a buzzing, swarming multitude. It says that they grew exceedingly strong, then Pharaoh said to his people, *"Behold the Israelites are too many and too mighty for us. They outnumber us in people and in strength. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them lest they multiply more and should war befall us they join our enemies, fight against us and escape out of the land."* The word that says "escape out of the land" can mean "to ascend out of the earth". What Pharaoh meant was, "Lest they ascend and get out from under our dominion." So, what did they do? *"They set over the Israelites taskmasters to afflict and oppress them."* Part of what I saw in reading this was that "set over" was almost like the second heaven. Can I have two volunteers to demonstrate this picture? (Two come to the front. LeAnn positions them with one bent over and the other standing above the one who is bent over.) They wanted to bend the Israelites over, to break their strength, to break their backs. One of the words used says that the Israelites were becoming "mighty". This means that they were becoming able to crush bones. They were so powerful that they were like bone-crushers. The enemy saw that and knew that he had to bend them over, break their back and then set someone over them, a taskmaster, to keep them down. This was the second heaven keeping them from ascending up out of the earth realm to a place of rulership and dominion. When you saw these two up here, the one who was bent over was a picture of infirmity or feebleness. That is some of the language in this passage. His intent was to make them feeble, to weaken their strength. We know that in the New Testament that the woman with the spirit of infirmity was bent over and could not straighten herself up. It is really hard to see when you are bent over. Part of what was happening with the Israelites in their mightiness was that they were upright. The enemy's purpose was to bow them over into a position of servitude. That position is almost a position of worship too. He wanted to overcome their system of worship and set himself over that system of worship so that they would be bowed over. What God wanted to do was to cause them to continue to grow and increase and be exceedingly mighty. The enemy saw it and knew that he had to intervene.

The passage goes on to say, *"The more the Egyptians oppressed them, the more they multiplied and expanded. The Egyptians became extremely vexed and alarmed."* If you can see the mid heavens, they are vexed by us. They are alarmed. *"So the Egyptians reduced the Israelites to severe slavery and made their lives bitter with hard service with mortar, brick and all kinds of work in the fields. Their service was with harshness and severity."* In the King James, "rigor" is one of the words used. It is back breaking labor.

On Sunday the Lord said to me that the midwives were the enemy of Pharaoh. I looked at this again and saw that Pharaoh targeted the midwives. He wanted to be in charge of all the birthing. It says, *"The king said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, 'When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women and see them on the birth stool, if it is a son, you shall kill him but if it is a daughter, you shall let her live.'" The two names, Shiphrah and Puah, mean "to glitter and to be brilliant, radiant and shining". Aren't those unusual names for midwives? Their names are mentioned specifically and they represent life. They glittered. They were radiant. They were brilliant with God's Spirit and His wisdom and they were bringing forth more swarms of those Hebrew children. The midwives are something we want to be part of in this season. We want to be life giving. We want to facilitate life. It says, *"God dealt well with the midwives and the people multiplied and became strong."**

Eventually Pharaoh shut that down and we get to the point where we see Moses and his call at the burning bush. He has had his spirit broken too. He knew that the Hebrews were his people and he had that back breaking thing operating in him. He also had misgivings and guilt about his conduct in the last season. He was carrying a load of guilt because he had killed the Egyptian. He was a pretty fearful man and also had an infirmity in his mouth. He could not

speak. He was not a whole lot better off than the rest of them in the sense of his equipping. He was a great man, but he was also beset by infirmity.

This morning we want to see this picture, how God sees His people and how the enemy sees His people, how the enemy seeks to bend us over and afflict us, then we want to call the body of Christ out. We want to get to the place where God says, "What is in your hand?" and we realize that we have the rod of authority in our hand. That was a branch, a stick. The thing about the branch, especially Aaron's rod, is that it demonstrated that resurrection life was coming out of that branch that was cut off from a tree. It had no power to do that and yet there was resurrection life in that rod. Again it was the picture of life overcoming the death culture, the affliction and the spirit of infirmity. The Lord wants to keep restoring life back and give us life to rule over death.

Let's begin to pray this morning as the Holy Spirit leads. Lord, You are not leaving us in a place of infirmity. You know, for some time I have had a thyroid issue and the Lord said I needed to divorce the spirit of infirmity. I did not know I was married to it! One of the words in this passage was to cut off, or divorce. Lord, we are cutting ourselves loose from the spirit of infirmity. We are agreeing that You called us to be a people that are upright, not bowed down under the affliction of the second heaven, a people that are waxing strong and mighty. When Pharaoh looked at the Israelites the word for what he saw was "troop". We are becoming an exceedingly abundant troop in the earth. We speak to the body of Christ over the face of the earth and say, "Come forth, troop of God! Come forth, mighty ones of God." We loose the rod of authority back into the hands of Your people. Thank You that You are unveiling and exposing the strategy in the second heaven.

Shara: When they came to the foreman and said we cannot make bricks without straw, the foreman said to them, "You are idle and lazy. That is why you want to get out of here." That was the voice of the accuser. The accuser is one of the things that breaks the back of the people of God and keeps the Pharaoh spirit ruling over them. I have to say to the body of Christ, I don't care what you have done. I don't care what the accuser can say to you, it is from the accuser. When Moses struck the rock when he was not supposed to, the water still came out for the people. That was mercy. Mercy was revealed at the cross. I release the river of mercy that breaks the back of the accuser that keeps the Pharaoh spirit ruling over the people of God. You are free from the accuser. It has been sealed up with the blood of the cross. Rise up out of your place of depression and despair and put the accuser in his place. Receive the rod of God into yourself and rise up and be strong.

Suzanne: I went to bed last night and woke up in about an hour and a half and could not get back to sleep. I got only about 3 hours of sleep. This morning I asked the Lord why this had happened. He said, "You have authority but you did not take it, so you did not go back to sleep. You had to pay." That is the season we are in. Take authority over what is besetting you and move forward.

Man: Fear is not of God. Tell it to move aside and take the land.

LeAnn: We are ascending to the rightful position. We are ascending out of the domain of the enemy's rulership and ascending into another dimension beyond the earthly dimension. Thank You, Lord, for the rod of authority, for Aaron's rod that budded. Thank You for the life-giving Spirit of Jesus. Your word says, "Behold the branch." Behold the Branch, the Lord Jesus. We lift Him up in the earth. We align ourselves with His authority and rulership. This is a time for the cross and for the vav. We stake what is Yours.

Linda: When LeAnn said that the Lord asked Moses, "What is in your hand?" the Lord said to me, "I can take what's in your hand and give you authority to break the power of the thing that's oppressing you." I thought about how Elisha asked the widow, "What do you have in the house?" She said, "I've got some oil." A supernatural activity came on that oil to give her what she needed to break out of debt. Jesus asked the disciples, "What do you have?" They said, "Five loaves and two fish." There was a supernatural power that came on those to feed 5,000 people. Lord, we are going to look again at what we've got in our hand. You may have already given us the thing that we need to break that oppressive power that says, "You're going to be hungry. You're going to be in debt. You will never break out from under this Pharaoh system." Lord, when you bless, multiply, breathe on, or activate what we have, it changes from what we have known in the past to become the symbol of the authority, the rule, the reign, the provision of God in the earth that overcomes whatever oppressive spirit has tried to hold us in captivity, infirmity, lack, debt or servitude. We declare that we are going to look again. When You ask us what we have in our hand, we are not going to say, "All I've got is..." We are going to say, "Look what You have given me! Take this and do what You need to do with it."

Chris: The Lord says, "You have seen this oppressive spirit every day for the past season. You may not have chosen to see it. You may not have chosen to take your authority over it, but now divinely I have shown you the spirits that oppress you. Now I have given you the authority. It will rise up in your face. Take your rod or authority and strike it down."

Women: Women have been discounted. According to the story, Pharaoh discounted them, but their names are radiance, brilliance and glitter. I call forth the women who are discounted. Come forth in power and vision. Birth something that will deliver the generation of the future.

John sings: *We are possessing. We are taking back what's ours.*

A.C. In Latin America, walking with your shoulders bent over symbolizes that you do not have any authority, that you are a nobody in society. The church has walked like that for many decades because the accuser says that if you walk straight, you are prideful. The Lord says, "That is a confusion from the enemy." Walking straight up and running means that you have authority. The Lord says to you, "Straight up! Refuse the voice of the enemy that says if you walk straight then you are prideful. You are righteous in My authority. That is why I have given you power to walk straight. Refuse the voice of the enemy that is telling you that you cannot straighten up or you will be prideful. Walk straight because you are powerful in My authority."

LeAnn: When Pharaoh set the taskmasters over them, one of the words used means to "eye them". He wanted them to keep their eye on them. That is the evil eye! We will blind the evil eye. We will not come under subjection to that spirit that would "eye" us and criticize, condemn and accuse. We throw that off. We are those who live as the apple of Your eye. We look to Your eye, your face. We will not come under subjection to that other system.

John sings: *We are possessing.*

Linus: The more the Egyptians afflicted them, the more the Israelites multiplied and grew. Satan has tried to come against us to afflict us physically, mentally and emotionally. He has tried to tear us down and bend us over, but we have the authority through the word of God and we must make the choice. We declare in the name of Jesus that we rise up. We will not walk bent over under the oppression of the enemy. We will not allow sickness and disease to destroy us. We will not allow the spirit of poverty to steal and rob from us. We make a choice to ascend, to soar over the attacks of the enemy, to rise up on wings as eagles and move forward. We are victorious. We have the mind of Christ. We ascend into the heavens to walk in victory. We ascend into the heavens to rule over the enemy. We take authority to move forward in victory, in Jesus' name.

Marian: In the face of that evil eye, we are brilliant. We are radiant and radiate the glory of the Lord because of the blood of Jesus, because of the cross. The enemy does not comprehend it. He must back down. He does not understand the sacrifice or the crucifixion, but we radiate with it.

Linda: Some years back Chuck asked me to read a book he had about the evil eye. One of the principles of the evil eye is that the thing that activates it is your agreement with it. When you agree that evil eye has power, then it has power over you. Evil eye will then tell you what to do to protect yourself. One of the things it tells people is that if they will wear an evil eye, they will be protected from the evil eye. That does not make sense. It gains more and more control, but the point that empowers it in your life is when you agree that it has power over you. The midwives never agreed with evil eye for a minute. Instead of them coming into destruction, it says that God established them. God established houses for the midwives. They blatantly defied that power and instead of them being hurt or harmed or killed, they were established. God, we declare that any place we have heard the voice of evil eye and agreed with it, we come to our senses and break agreement, remove its power over us and watch You establish us. As long as you are agreeing with the power of evil eye, you cannot hear what the Lord is saying. As long as you say, "I had no other choice. I was forced into this," then you are in agreement with evil eye and you cannot expect to get revelation from the Lord. When Moses' mother, Jochobed, did not agree, God showed her a plan to keep her son safe. Lord, you always have a plan. You always have a way for us to resist that power of evil eye. You always have a way for us to walk in righteousness in whatever situation we are in. We are going to look again at what You have provided. We are going to ask again and hear again what You have to say to us. You will make us shine even in a dark place. You will make us stand up straight even when something is trying to push us over and You will establish our houses. You will break the powers over us and lead us out.

LeAnn: As Linda was talking, I remembered Daniel. He had the rod of authority down his back. He could not bow! If you have a steel rod down your back, you cannot bow. It is impossible.

Marta: I want to reinforce what Linda said. In Exodus 1:17 and 21 it says that the midwives feared God. The key phrase is "feared God". They did not do what the king of Egypt told them to do. They let the boys live. Verse 21 says, "*The midwives feared God. He gave them families of their own.*" The key is, fear God. Stand up straight and fear God.

Tina: I am reminded of Peter at the gate with the lame man begging for silver and gold. Peter knew that he needed more than silver and gold, so he took the authority that was invested in him and that lame man got up, stood up straight and walked. Peter said, "*Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I you. By the power of God, rise up and walk.*"

I declare that we are going to use the authority that is invested in us. We declare that the word of God works. As we speak the word of God we will get up and walk. The infirmity is going to go.

John sings: *I will not fear the voice of the night. I will not bow to the voice of night. I will rise with a rod in my hand.*

LeAnn sings: *I won't be found building bricks for the house of Pharaoh. No! No! I've come to worship my God. I've come to stand before my God and not to bow before man, no, no, no. Don't want to be found building bricks for Pharaoh.*

Shara: The book of Jeremiah says, *"The word of the Lord came to me saying, 'Jeremiah, what do you see?' and I said, 'I see a branch, the shoot of an almond tree.'" This is the emblem of alertness and activity blossoming in late winter.*

"Then the Lord said to me, 'You have seen well for I am alert. I am active. I am watching over My word to perform it.'"

The rod is the word of the Lord. It is active. It is alert. The Lord Himself, His eye is watching over it to perform it.

Body of Christ, hear the word of the Lord; speak the word of the Lord. This is the rod of God within you.

LeAnn sings: *You will bloom in winter because you are full of life. You will bloom when death is all around for you are full of life.*

John sings: *I'm going to leave these brick pits. I'm going to the wilderness to worship. I'm gonna stand right up, take my authority. I'm gonna stand up straight. I'm gonna right up with the rod that God has given me.*

Chris: In Ex. 2, Moses tried to redeem the Israelites by murdering the Egyptian. He could have done it that way, but it would have taken a long time. He would have had to kill the Egyptians one by one. God does not want us to waste our time and energy fighting them one at a time. He will set His people free as a troop. He will swallow all of our oppressors behind us.

A.C.: When LeAnn sang, I heard the Lord say, "Prepare, for I am going to surprise you. You have no idea of the season. I am going to make a flower that is beautiful and glorious." You are in circumstances and you think that there is no way for anything good to come out of them, but the Lord says, "Prepare, for I will surprise you. Expect something wonderful to come your way."

Shara sings: *When I take a look at this rod, it looks dead, but God says, "Look again; look again; look again." When I take this rod it looks like it's got no life, but God says, "Look again; look again; look again." Whatever is in your hand, when I breathe upon it, life, life, life comes. It may look small. It may look insignificant, but when My breathe is on it, it will be everything you need, so look again.*

John: Sometimes when we look at it we see nothing but a bare branch. We have got to tell ourselves and train ourselves to look again. God is training us to do that. Sometimes I am looking for something that I can't find and it is in plain sight. The Lord says to look again. My wife Violet is finishing up her dissertation and she sent the last chapter off to her professor for her to read. The professor wrote back and said, "I've looked at what you sent and I can't understand it." Violet knew that it was understandable, so we began to pray for the professor to look again and understand it. She called the next day and said, "I looked at it again and it is perfect." We are going to look again!

sings: I don't care if that rod is stripped down bare and dried out, I'm going to look again. While I'm looking, Lord I pray that You bring those buds come out, let it begin to flower. Let it come into its strength with new life! New life!

Woman: John said that his wife looked again, but then she said something. That points back to what we learned on Sunday. You can see it, but you've got to call it forth.

John: Amen! Call it forth.

LeAnn: I was just thinking about Revelation where the sword comes out of the Lord's mouth. We release the sword of Your word from our mouths. We will not say that this is just a dry thing. Literally, our lips and our mouth are going to cause things to flower. They will cause things to blossom because of the spoken word going out. This last week two of the young people, Summer and Isaac, were in the parking lot here and a man was walking across. They stared talking and the man said that he was a pagan. He started getting on to Isaac telling him that he should not have tattoos, yet the guy was a pagan. As they talked, Summer said that the Lord began to put words in her mouth and the guy was agreeing with her! He literally was confounded and could not contradict anything that she was saying. The words that came out of her mouth were such pure truth it was amazing. She did not quite know what was happening, it was so sudden. It was like what A.C. was prophesying, in the winter season you will blossom in a moment when you least expect it. Father, loose the anointing to blossom whenever, wherever regardless of the season.

Lady sings: *Our branch is budding, the flowers coming forth. We use it in the name of the Lord.*

Marge: Ted and I went to the west coast for a memorial service. Before we went, Bedie said for us to be sure to look again. We went to where our ministry began. When we got to Portland where I was born, Ted asked if I wanted to drive

by my grandmother's house. I said no, that it was in a bad area and the last time I was there it was too hard to see how it had fallen apart. We decided to go anyway and when we got there, the whole area had been restored. The house was painted. It was a new thing. The Lord said, "I am restoring your family."

LeAnn: One of the words for "afflict" was "to inflict pain". Those are the things that break our spirits down. We get into that posture because we have a history with some things. Moses had a history. We've got to get beyond the history of things. We have got to get to the burning bush that burns everything up and we can move forward. Father, give us eyes to see what is in our history that still connects us with a spirit of infirmity and affliction. We ask that You would show us. I just saw a catapult. It was a tree that was bent all the way over and when it was cut, it was like a launcher. Lord, as You show things to us from the last season or even from generations, we ask that You would open our eyes. I saw that there was an agreement in our generations with the spirit of infirmity and being bowed down. As A.C. said, we sometimes misperceive this as humility but it is a demonic spirit. Lord, thank You for opening our eyes to see it for what it is. Just like the tree that was bent over, when it snapped upright, it became a launcher. Lord, You will snap us upright and cause things to be launched into whole new dimensions of power.

John sings: *We do not bow our knees to the prince of the air. Making war in the heavenlies.*

LeAnn: Is there anyone who wants to come and take this rod up and move with it? (Marta comes up and takes the rod). Just begin to move with it. We are going to be leading out a troop. That rod is a symbol of God's chosen leadership and resurrection life that anoints His leadership in the body of Christ. Your anointed leaders are rising up now in a whole new dimension. They know who they are because they know who You are. They won't fear man. They won't fear the face of their enemy. They won't fear the evil eye. They won't fear affliction because they know that they will be strong and mighty. This is a season to overturn the past decrees of the enemy. We are giving our mouths to speak life over the body and our families in a new way. Your people are rising up and ascending from the earth, taking their rightful places with You, decreeing Your words and thoughts into the earth realm. They are multiplying over the face of the earth as a swarm. We set ourselves against the spirit of infirmity. We set ourselves against the evil eye. We set ourselves against feebleness in the body. We set ourselves against false kingdoms and false rulership. We ascend to You and worship You in spirit and truth. We worship You with all that we are, body, soul and spirit. We yield up our bodies up to You, a living sacrifice. Thank You that there is a new strength, physical strength and healing coming into the body of Christ. Thank You for the restoration of that rod of authority.

John: Raise up a shout!

Lady: In the name of Jesus, I call forth all the grandmothers and great-grandmothers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers. I decree that our grandchildren, our great-grandchildren, our children are coming into Your kingdom!