

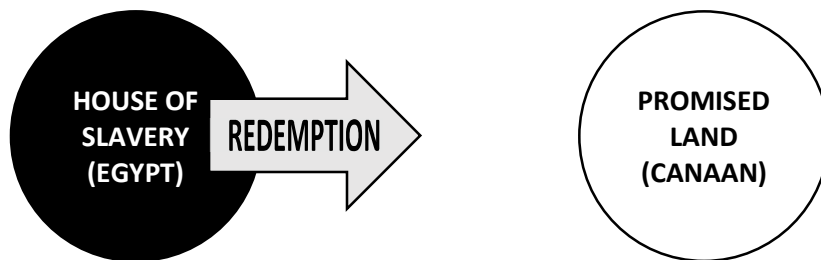
Exodus 13:1-22

FOLLOWING GOD

God, who by the right of creation is proprietor and sovereign of all the creatures, here lays claim in particular to the firstborn of the Israelites: "Sanctify to me all the firstborn." The parents were not to look upon themselves as interested in their firstborn, till they had first solemnly presented them to God, recognized his title to them, and received them back, at a certain rate, from him again... God, who is the first and best, should have the first and best, and to him we should resign that which is most dear to us, and most valuable. The firstborn were the joy and hope of their families. "Therefore they shall be mine," says God. By this it will appear that we love God best (as we ought) if we are willing to part with that to him which we love best in this world. —Matthew Henry (1662-1714)

- A Slavery: Serving Pharaoh (1-5)
 - B Redemption: The Lamb of God (6-12)
 - C The Wilderness: God with Israel (13-18)
 - D The Covenant: Living as God's People (19-24)**
 - C The Tabernacle: God with Israel (25-31)
 - B Rebellion: The Golden Calf (32-34)
 - A Worship: Building for God (35-40)

Israel has been set free from bondage. They have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. Now, they must learn to follow after God. God trains them as His people as they walk through the wilderness.



G _____ GOD YOUR FIRST AND BEST.

Set apart for Me every firstborn... It is Mine (13:2).

- In ancient cultures, the firstborn inherited _____.
- In the OT, the firstborn son represented the father's strength and the family's future (cf. Gen. 49:3; Deut. 21:17; Ps. 78:51).
- Conceptually, the "firstborn" indicates what is the first, best, and highest to me (cf. Ex. 4:22; Ps. 89:27; Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:1-6).
- The firstborn belonged to God but could also be redeemed.

The Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart.

—Deuteronomy 8:2b

Primogeniture is the system of inheritance and succession whereby the whole estate and headship of the family descends to the oldest son to the exclusion of sisters and younger brothers... Primogeniture was a generally accepted and practiced tradition in the Ancient Near East...in all three regions (Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Syro-Palestine).

— Udogu Chukwuebuka
Int'l Journal of Social Sciences

Egypt was ruled by primogeniture [firstborn inherits the entire estate, title, and throne]. The firstborn had absolute power within the family unit. Pharaoh was the firstborn of the firstborn. It was from his birthright that he exercised his power. —Rabbi Ari Kahn

From a legal standpoint, a firstborn son was equal with the father.

—Nick Cady

God's desire was that the Israelites recognize His right to ownership of the first and best in whatever came to them in spoils of war, harvests, or offspring. —Douglas Stuart

R _____ GOD'S GRACE.

Remember this day in which you went out of Egypt... (13:3)

- Remember God's _____ in delivering you.
- Remember God's _____ in giving you the land.
- Remember to tell your _____.
- Remember to keep it at the forefront of your _____.

O _____ GOD'S WORD.

Keep this statute at its appointed time from year to year... (13:10)

- Leavened bread was a picture of _____
(cf. Matt. 16:6, 11; Luke 12:1; 1 Cor. 5:6-8; Gal. 5:9).
- Removing leaven from one's home and eating only unleavened bread during Passover was a reminder that a redeemed people are to avoid sin and obey the Lord. It is the NT picture of "putting off" the old life and "putting on" the new life (cf. Col. 3:5-14).
- When I believe God's goodness, then I receive God's commands (cf. Deut. 6:24; 10:12-13; Psalm 19:7-11).

W _____ ON GOD'S DIRECTION AND TIMING.

God led the people around by way of the wilderness... (13:18)

- God did not lead His people down the nearer, more direct path to Canaan since He knew their hearts and the dangers of that path.
- God leads them faithfully through the wilderness, guiding them with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire at night. The cloud and the fire both represent God's presence (cf. Ex. 24:15-18).
- God does not always take us down the path that we expect but He faithfully leads us down the path that He knows we need.

There is, hidden away in the brain, a record of the stream of consciousness... Contained in this record are all those things of which the individual was once aware—such details as a man might hope to remember for a few seconds or minutes afterwards, but which are largely lost to voluntary recall after that time.

—Dr. Wilder Penfield

Every word of praise, every petition, every act of ritual and ceremony, every obedient work—all these are worship and all are triggered by remembrance and depend on remembrance.

—Eugene Merrill

What we focus on comes to control our thoughts, our actions, and indeed, our very lives. Whatever we focus upon actually wires our neurons.

—Kare Anderson

Leaven has been called the arch-symbol of fermentation, deterioration, and death and, hence, taboo on the altar of blessing and life.

—Jacob Milgrom

Sovereign God, it is known well to Thee that our will is to perform Thy will. What prevents us? The yeast in the dough, the evil impulse which causes a ferment in the heart.

—Rabbi Alexandri (~AD 250)

The effect of yeast in a mixture is marked by silent but vigorous activity. Its spores have the potential to multiply exponentially, infiltrating every part of a given mixture. One sure way to stop its progress is through baking.

—Karen Meeker

*He does not lead me year by year,
Nor even day by day;
But step by step my path unfolds;
My Lord directs my way.*

—Barbara Ryberg