

## EXODUS 13 – The Firstborn And The Feast.

We've so far seen the fruitfulness of the Israelites through affliction in Egypt, the miraculous salvation and upbringing of Moses in Pharaoh's Palace, his premature effort to save his nation getting him in murder and ending up in Midian for 40 years, God's call and his journey to Egypt, signs and plagues that led to their freedom.

### I. The firstborn belongs to God: 1-2; 11-16.

The idea was that the firstborn was to be set apart to God, whether **of man** or **beast** – the firstborn belonged to God. By giving God the firstborn, we're called to give Him priority and the best. This was for three reasons.

**First**, because Israel was God's firstborn and this practice honored that fact.

**Second**, because the firstborn was the best, and the best was always given to God.

**Finally**, as a reminder to all generations of when God redeemed Israel, *His* firstborn from Egypt.

"Israel had been saved through the destruction of Egypt's first-born, and now they were required to dedicate their own first-born as a constant memorial of their deliverance." (Thomas).

The law of dedicating the firstborn to God was only to take effect when in the Promised Land. **If the firstborn was unacceptable to sacrifice (if it was an unclean animal or a human) a substitute was offered to redeem the firstborn from God. If the firstborn was an animal the substitute was a clean animal. If the firstborn was a human, the substitute was money.**

This practice of dedicating the firstborn to God would also be a reminder of God's great work and strong power for Israel.

**Mark 12:30** - *'And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'* This is the **first** commandment.

**Matthew 6:33** - *But seek **first** the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

**Revelation 1:8** - *"I am the **Alpha** and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."*

### II. 3-10: The Feast of Unleavened Bread.

- i. The feast of Unleavened Bread was a picture of freedom from sin and a call to live purely for the LORD

**Matthew 16:6** - *Then Jesus said to them, "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees."*

**Titus 2:11-14** - *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*

**Romans 6:17** - *But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.*

- ii. The Feast was also a call to know the LORD's ways.

**Deuteronomy 6:4-9** - *"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."*

### III. The Cloud and The Fire.

The coastal route was the shortest and most common way to go from Egypt to Canaan. Yet it was also the road where Egypt's military outposts were. God knew the people of Israel were not ready to face this yet (**lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt**), so He led them a different way.

God showed His presence to Israel in a dramatic way, by giving them constant assurance, with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

**Psalms 105:39** - *He spread a cloud for a covering, and fire to give light in the night.*

**Psalms 84:11** - *For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.*