

Exodus Chapter 13 Commentary

Ex 13:1 ¶ "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine."

We will pick this dialogue back up in **Ex 13:11**.

3 "And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten. **4** This day came ye out in the month Abib. **5** And it shall be when the LORD shall bring thee into the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee, a land flowing with milk and honey, that thou shalt keep this service in this month. **6** Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, and in the seventh day shall be a feast to the LORD. **7** Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days; and there shall no leavened bread be seen with thee, neither shall there be leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters. **8** And thou shalt shew thy son in that day, saying, This is done because of that which the LORD did unto me when I came forth out of Egypt. **9** And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the LORD'S law may be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath the LORD brought thee out of Egypt. **10** Thou shalt therefore keep this ordinance in his season from year to year."

Again, Israel is reminded to keep the passover when they enter the land of promise. Did you notice? God did not require them to keep the passover, while they were on the way from Egypt to the land of promise. There is a prophetic picture here for us today. From the time a person is born-again, until they make their public declaration of faith in Jesus Christ and join the church fellowship, they are on their wilderness journey. They are not required to keep the Lord's Supper until they join the organized church, the land of promise, receive water baptism, and begin walking in fellowship with the church body of believers.

Most churches require that you receive water baptism, by immersion, before you partake of the Lord's Supper. After all: the children of Israel were all baptized going through the sea, seen in: **1Co 10:1-4; 1 ¶** *"Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; 2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; 3 And did all eat the same spiritual meat; 4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."*

11 ¶ "And it shall be when the LORD shall bring thee into the land of the Canaanites, as he sware unto thee and to thy fathers, and shall give it thee, **12** That thou shalt set apart unto the LORD all that openeth the matrix, and every firstling that cometh of a beast which thou hast; the males shall be the LORD'S. **13** And every firstling of an ass thou shalt redeem with a lamb; and if thou wilt not redeem it, then thou shalt break his neck: and all the firstborn of man among thy children shalt thou redeem. **14** And it shall be when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What is this? that thou shalt say unto him, By strength of hand the LORD brought us out from Egypt, from the house of bondage: **15** And it came to pass, when Pharaoh would hardly let us go, that the LORD slew all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man, and the firstborn of beast: therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all that openeth the matrix, being males; but all the firstborn of my children I redeem. **16** And it shall be for a token upon thine hand, and for frontlets between thine eyes: for by strength of hand the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt."

God gives Israel the reason they are to sacrifice the firstborn males of the beast and redeem the firstborn males of mankind. A reminder to be taught to children of the Israelites of what great things God had done to bring them from bondage to the land of promise. This is a lesson for us today: Just as Israel's deliverance from Egypt was done by the power of God: we should keep in remembrance; our deliverance, from death in trespasses and sins to eternal life, was totally by the finished work of and power of Jesus Christ.

God told Israel to wear tokens of this upon their hands and between their eyes. This was a constant reminder to them of what God has done for them. The lesson for us: we should be in the King James bible daily. It is our constant reminder of all that Christ has done for us. The Old Testament is a testimony of Christ, and the

New Testament is the testimony of what Christ accomplished while here on earth, demonstrating how the prophesies of the Old Testament were fulfilled, or will be on the eternal resurrection day.

We are to teach our children, today, what great things the Lord Jesus did, to bring us forth from under the bondage of sin. It is why we worship God, and our children need to know, so they also can learn to worship God, and our Saviour, Jesus Christ. For this to be a constant reminder to us, and them, it would need to be discussed, read about, or taught every day in our homes, and wherever we go.

Consider the scripture in: ***Eph 6:4; 1 ¶ "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. 4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."*** We see demonstrated by the context of the text: this is what is supposed to happen at home. Fathers and Mothers are commanded to teach their children the word of God. This is not the responsibility of the church, but the parents. However, the preaching and teaching of the church should reinforce what has been taught at home.

If parents are not thoroughly schooled in the bible, the church can help them. This is why the church should have regular bible study programs for both parents and children. Parents may also ask their pastors, ministers, elders, and deacons for assistance in learning the truths of the bible, in order to properly teach their children, the truth, in accordance with the teachings of the bible.

17 ¶ "And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt: 18 But God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red sea: and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt."

God, knowing the weakness of the flesh and the faith of the Israelites, did not take them the shorter way through the land of the Philistines. Had they gone that way; they would have had to fight against the Philistines, and God knew this would discourage them.

There is a secondary reason for this route also. They are to go three days journey and sacrifice to God. If they are at war, they cannot perform, the sacrifice required by God. For Israel to sacrifice according to God's commandment; they need to be in a safe place, and they needed no exposure to other people, who would take offense at their sacrifices to God and try to kill them, which is why they had to get out of Egypt.

We know that Israel left Egypt armed, and ready to do battle, from the word "***harnessed***" which means *staunch, able-bodied soldiers, armed men*. Wherefore, we are sure that the Israelites borrowed weapons of war from the Egyptians, because heretofore, they did not have weapons.

This is why; new church members are not called upon to be active in service, in an office in the church, when they are babies. They need time to grow, and to develop into mature adults in the faith. Likewise, we do not receive new members and send them straight to war. First, they need to be schooled, and taught, in the proper use of the weapons of our warfare.

19 "And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you. 20 And they took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of the wilderness. 21 And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: 22 He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people."

Moses remembered the promise of Israel to Joseph, and they took his bones with them. Why did they do this? Because of what we find in scripture in: ***Ge 48:21 "And Israel said unto Joseph, Behold, I die: but God shall be with you, and bring you again unto the land of your fathers."*** where, Israel told Joseph that God would bring him again to the land of promise. They could not have carried Joseph back to the land of promise and buried him at the time of his death, for Joseph was a great man in Egypt at that time, and the Egyptians would not have allowed it. This is why Joseph made his brethren promise to take his bones with them when God brought them out of Egypt, seen in: ***Ge 50:24-25; 24 "And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. 25 And Joseph***

took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence." It was necessary for the promise of God to be fulfilled.

We find in: **Ac 7:14-16; 14 "Then sent Joseph, and called his father Jacob to him, and all his kindred, threescore and fifteen souls. 15 So Jacob went down into Egypt, and died, he, and our fathers, 16 And were carried over into Sychem, and laid in the sepulcher that Abraham bought for a sum of money of the sons of Emmor the father of Sychem."** Because the text says "**he, and our fathers,**" He and our fathers would indicate Jacob and his twelve sons. We believe this to mean that the bones of Joseph's brethren were also carried out of Egypt.

A lesson for us; God does not work on our timetable. God has his own plan of action. God, by his providential will, steers the course, of all things necessary, to accomplish his will and fulfill his purpose.

We see in these verses: God led His people in the wilderness with a visible presence of the glory of God for them to follow on their journey to the Promised Land. That visible presence of God was with them day and night. It was a constant reminder of who their God was. What about us today? God is with us always because of Christ in you from the time of your new birth. God is with us always because of the Holy Spirit presence, the Comforter, that Christ promised to send to his people, seen in:

- **Joh 14:16 "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;"** Abide means to take up residence, to stay, to remain, to dwell, to be present.
- **Joh 14:26 "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."** When we are born again: the Holy Spirit, Christ in us, will give us spiritual discernment to go along with the natural discernment we already have. Another reason we read and study the King James bible, so the Holy Spirit can bring to our remembrance the word of God and give it right application in our lives.
- **Joh 15:26 "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:"** The Holy Spirit dwelling in you will be testifying of what great things God the Father and God the Son has done.
- **Joh 16:7 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you."**

Thus, we know that the Holy Spirit presence of God is with us always, just as the visible presence of God was manifested to the children of Israel. We also have the written testimony, The King James bible, available to us, which was written by God for us to use as seen in: **2Ti 3:16-17; 16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."** This is not just for the ministers, but for each and every child of God.

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for sending the Comforter to be and abide with us always. Please help us to listen to the Holy Spirit guidance in our lives, we pray in Jesus's name, Amen!