

## Exodus 13:1-16 **Firstborn and Feast of Unleavened Bread**

<sup>1</sup> Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup> "Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and beast; it is Mine."

<sup>3</sup> And Moses said to the people: "Remember this day in which you went out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out of this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten. <sup>4</sup> On this day you are going out, in the month Abib. <sup>5</sup> And it shall be, when the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, which He swore to your fathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, that you shall keep this service in this month. <sup>6</sup> Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a feast to the LORD. <sup>7</sup> Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days. And no leavened bread shall be seen among you, nor shall leaven be seen among you in all your quarters. <sup>8</sup> And you shall tell your son in that day, saying, 'This is done because of what the LORD did for me when I came up from Egypt.' <sup>9</sup> "It shall be as a sign to you on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the LORD's law may be in your mouth; for with a strong hand the LORD has brought you out of Egypt. <sup>10</sup> You shall therefore keep this ordinance in its season from year to year.

<sup>11</sup> "And it shall be, when the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as He swore to you and your fathers, and gives it to you, <sup>12</sup> that you shall set apart to the LORD all that open the womb, that is, every firstborn that comes from an animal which you have; the males shall be the LORD's. <sup>13</sup> But every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb; and if you will not redeem it, then you shall break its neck. And all the firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. <sup>14</sup> So it shall be, when your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What is this?' that you shall say to him, 'By strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. <sup>15</sup> And it came to pass, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that the LORD killed 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 males that open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.' <sup>16</sup> "It shall be as a sign on your hand and as frontlets between your eyes, for by strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt." NKJV

Facts Revealed:

### **Consecration of the Firstborn**

✧ **The firstborn** of Israel belong to God, of man and animal.

### **Feast of Unleavened Bread**

- ✧ Remember this day in which you went out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
- ✧ To remember how Yehowah brought Israel out of Egypt by a strong hand, with many plagues against the gods of Egypt, God established the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
- ✧ **Abib** is the month of Passover, the first month of the year according to God [Exodus 12:2] (but the name of the month was changed to **Nisan** during the Babylonian captivity [Esther 3:7, and Nehemiah 2:1] and it is still used as such by the Jewish calendars of today).
- ✧ When you come into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites, Jebusites, which God promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, a land flowing with milk and honey, you shall keep this service in this month. [Exodus 12:15-20]
  - ✧ The seven days following the night of Passover are the days of Unleavened Bread.
  - ✧ On the seventh day there shall be a feast to Yehowah.

- ✧ Leaven is not to be eaten at all during this time, with the punishment of being cut off from Israel (put to death) for those who disobey. [\[Exodus 12:19\]](#)
- ✧ It is a teaching point for generations to come. “Tell your son in that day, ‘This is done because of what Yehowah did for me when I came up from Egypt.’”
- ✧ The feast days are a sign to Israel reminding them that Yehowah’s law should be in their mouth as a testimony, because with a strong hand Yehowah brought Israel out of Egypt.
- ✧ The ordinance must be kept in its season from year to year.

### **Consecration of Firstborn introduces God’s plan of Redemption**

- ✧ When Yehowah brings you into the land of Canaan as He swore to your fathers, and gives it to you:
  - ✧ Then you shall set apart all that open the womb, every firstling that comes from an animal, the males shall belong to Yehowah.
  - ✧ The firstling of a donkey shall be redeemed with a lamb, or you shall break its neck.
  - ✧ The firstborn of your sons you shall redeem.

Here God set the precedent of Redemption pointing forward to the time when all mankind would be offered Redemption to God through the blood of His Son the Lamb of God, Whom God Himself sacrificed on the cross of Golgotha. [\[Luke 21:28, Romans 3:24, Romans 8:23, 1 Corinthians 1:30, Ephesians 1:3-7, Colossians 1:13-14, Hebrews 9:11-15\]](#)

- ✧ It is a testimony to the generations to come that when they ask, they will be told, “By strength of hand Yehowah brought us out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, and when Pharaoh would not let us go, Yehowah killed all the firstborn of the land of Egypt.”
- ✧ This is the reason we sacrifice all the firstborn animal males that open the womb to Yehowah, but the firstborn of our sons, we redeem.
- ✧ It is a sign on your hand and frontlets between your eyes. This is a text that is behind the custom of the orthodox Jews even today of wearing Scripture texts in little boxes on their hands and on their foreheads.
- ✧ For by strength of hand Yehowah brought us out of Egypt. This is repeated 4 times in this passage demonstrating that God clearly wants us to remember what He did in Egypt.
- ✧ The reference to the deliverance from Egyptian bondage will remain the identifying act of God throughout all generations, until He sets up His kingdom and then He will be known as the God Who brought His people back from all the nations to which they have been scattered. [\[Ezekiel 39:7, 21-24, and 25-29\]](#)