

Quarter Three: Exodus: Journey to the Promised Land

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Lesson 6—Through the Red Sea

Monday: Consecration of the Firstborn

August 4, 2025

- **Last Week: “Passover”**
 - Exodus 11 - 13
 - The 10th plague: death of the firstborn
 - God’s provision for deliverance: passed over by the blood
 - Accepting that by faith & teaching it to the next generation
- **This Week: “Through the Red Sea”**
 - Exodus 12:31 – 15
 - The Exodus from Egypt
 - God’s miraculous deliverance from bondage through the Red Sea
 - Example of His deliverance from sin (redemption in Christ)

Memory Text: “And Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace’” (Ex 14:13, 14, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** Go, and Worship the Lord (John D)
 - Ex 12:31 – 36 – Pharaoh’s release of the Hebrews (out of defeat, not submission to Yahweh’s will) 430-year sojourn: could be 215 years from Abram’s calling from Ur to Jacob / Israel going Egypt; 215 years from then to the Exodus
- 2. **Monday:** Consecration of the Firstborn (Jill)
 - Ex 13:1 – 16 – firstborns spared because of the blood; symbol of redemption & deliverance; animals to be sacrificed, sons to be redeemed
- 3. **Tuesday:** Crossing the Red Sea (James)
 - Ex 13:17 – 14:12 – Israelites led to a point of total reliance on God; terror with Sea before them & Egyptian army behind
- 4. **Wednesday:** Marching Forward by Faith (John L)
 - Ex 14:13 – 31 – Moses’ encouragement to the people; God’s promises to us, today (how to act under difficult situations); God’s deliverance through the Red Sea
- 5. **Thursday:** The Song of Moses & Miriam (SQ)
 - Ex 15 – the song of victory & deliverance; comparison to song of the redeemed in Rev 15

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Exodus 13:1 - 16

- 7 Festivals celebrated by Jews
 - (not feasts, as some are not connected with eating)
 - Festivals = God's way of connecting in with His people by providing celebrations & reminders of His saving acts on their behalf
 - *remember a birthday or anniversary
 - First 4 = spring festivals
 - Final 3 = autumn festivals
 - **1. Passover** (Ex 12; Lev 23:4 – 8)
 - Connected with Jesus' death
 - Salvation by the hyssop / blood of the lamb
 - Applied by faith to the doorposts & lintel
 - Jesus = the Lamb of God (John 1:29)
 - 1 Cor 5:7 – “Christ, our Passover Lamb, was sacrificed for us”
 - **2. Unleavened Bread** (Ex 13:1 – 16; Lev 23:6)
 - Connected with Jesus' death
 - 7-day feast, starts the day after Passover – the day of the Exodus
 - Unleavened bread – without sin – represents Jesus, the Bread of Life (John 6:35)
 - (Passover & Unleavened Bread are connected with consecration of the firstborn)
 - **3. First fruits** (Lev 23:10)
 - Connected with Jesus' resurrection
 - One of 3 Jewish harvest feasts to thank God for what He's provided
 - Barley harvest
 - Jesus = the first fruits of the dead (1 Cor 15:20)
 - **4. Festival of Weeks** (Pentecost) (Lev 23:16)
 - Connected with Pentecost / the outpouring of the Holy Spirit
 - 2nd of the 3 Jewish harvest feasts
 - Occurs 7 weeks after the Feast of the First Fruits (Pentecost = 50 days)
 - Wheat harvest
 - Many accepted Christ when He poured out the “first fruit” gift of the Holy Spirit just after Christ's ascension
 - **5. Festival of Trumpets** (Lev 23:24)
 - Could be connected with the 7 trumpets in Rev
 - Trumpet sounded – reminded the people that God is Creator & Judge of the world
 - Prepared people for the Day of Atonement
 - The 7 trumpets sound before the 2nd coming of Jesus
 - Remind people that God is Creator & Judge
 - In Revelation, the trumpets culminate with a sanctuary scene related to the Day of Atonement

- **6. Day of Atonement** (Lev 16; 23:26 – 32)
 - Corresponds to Judgment Day, 1844, Investigative Judgment
 - Time when God’s sanctuary is cleansed of sins – essentially a theodicy; He is shown to be right for having already forgiven the repentant & condemning the unrepentant
 - Day of humility & repentance, soul searching & cleansing of the Most Holy Place of the sanctuary
- **7. Festival of Tabernacles or booths** (Lev 23:34)
 - Celebration follows the Day of Atonement
 - Celebrated after the harvest & lasted 7 days
 - For 7 days, God’s people lived in booths to remind them of the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness
 - They waved palm branches to express joy b4 the Lord
 - Rev 7 – John saw an innumerable multitude of people from all nations standing b4 the throne & the Lamb with palm branches, praising God & the Lamb
- Festivals provide reminders of the past **and** framework throughout salvation history
- **Consecration of the Firstborn**
 - Ex 13:1, 2 – “Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, (2) ‘Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and beast; it is Mine.’”
 - The redemption of the firstborn is a key part of the Passover & Festival of Unleavened Bread
 - Philip Ryken: “The point of consecrating the firstborn was really to show that the whole family belonged to God.”
 - God had spared the firstborn because of the blood applied by faith to the door posts & lintels
 - **Takeaway #1: God is Creator & Owner of all**
 - Ps 24:1, NIV – “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.”
 - The Israelite’s firstborn sons (& animals) was a reminder of their total consecration to Him & their understanding that all they possessed came only from Him
 - Interlude of Feast of Unleavened Bread (Vs 3 – 10)
 - Ex 13:11 – 13 – “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, (12) 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. (13) 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.”

- Vs 12 - Set Apart – all that open the womb (the firstborn)
 - Set apart = “to pass over” – most notable crossing was the Red Sea & the Jordan River
 - Consecration = setting apart
- **Takeaway #2: Everything we have & are belongs to God**
 - Firstborn to be consecrated to God – set apart
 - Josh 24:15 – Choose today whom you will serve....as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.
- Firstborn offered to the Lord
 - All firstborn animals allocated for the Lord
 - Clean animals would be offered as sacrifices for God
 - Unclean animals (donkeys) & firstborn sons were to be redeemed with a lamb
- **Takeaway #3: Jesus purchased our redemption with His blood**
 - 1 Pet 1:18, 19 – “Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, (19) but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”
 - Eph 1:7 – “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins...”
- Ex 13:14, 15 – “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. (15) 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.’”
 - **Takeaway #4: Remember what God has done for you**
 - Taught to their children
 - Every sacrifice offered on behalf of a firstborn son reminded them of the deliverance from bondage
 - Luke 2:22 – 24 – “Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord, (23) (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord’), (24) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord...”
 - Joseph & Mary consecrated their firstborn Son to God
 - 1,500 years post-Exodus
- Ex 13:16 - “It shall be as a sign to you on your hand and frontlets between your eyes, for by strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt.”
 - It = consecration of the firstborn
 - Orthodox Jews take this literally & bind phylacteries (leather boxes)
 - To their left arm & forehead

- Implication is spiritual:
 - God wants to write His law in our hearts & in our minds
 - Jer 31:3; Heb 8:10
 - Rev 14:9 – mark of the beast is in the hand & forehead