

EXPLORING EXODUS

13:1-22

Introduction

1) Review of Exodus 12:31-51

- a) After the death of Egypt's firstborn, Pharaoh tells Moses to leave with the children of Israel
- b) Additional Passover regulations given as the people prepare to leave quickly

2) Our study today is **Exodus 13:1-22**

I) The Feast of Unleavened Bread (13:3-10)

- A) Remember the day they left Egypt and bondage – month of Abib (cf. Ex. 12:2)
- B) Eat only unleavened bread for seven days; no leaven allowed in house
 - 1) Connected to the Passover (Ex. 12:14-20; Lev. 23:4-8)
- C) To be explained to the children as what the LORD did for them coming out of Egypt
 - 1) A sign (token) to be kept close to them; the LORD's law is to be in their "mouth"

II) The Law of the Firstborn (13:1-2, 11-16)

- A) "Sanctify" – set apart all the firstborn of man and animal to the LORD ("It is mine")
 - 1) All firstborn males of animals and man given/set apart to LORD (cf. Ex. 22:29; Lev. 27:26; Deut. 15:19)
 - 2) Firstborn donkey (unclean animal) redeemed with a lamb; firstborn of man to be redeemed
- B) Explained to the child who asks, "What is this?"
 - 1) Brought out of Egypt, the house of bondage, by God's "strong hand" (cf. v. 9)
 - 2) Because of Pharaoh's stubbornness, God killed the firstborn in Egypt both man and animal
 - 3) Firstborn male (clean) animals are sacrificed; firstborn male sons are redeemed
 - a) Redemption of firstborn son comes with a price of sacrifice to be paid (cf. Num. 18:14-16)
 - b) Law of the firstborn sons would be fulfilled in the tribe of Levi (Num. 3:11-13; 8:14-18)
- C) To be a sign "on your hand and as frontlets between your eyes" (cf. Deut. 6:8; Matt. 23:5)
 - 1) Its meaning and remembrance to be always kept close to their heart and mind

III) The Journey Begins (13:17-22)

- A) God did not bring them by the way of the Philistines, lest when they saw war, they would return to Egypt – they are not yet ready for war
 - 1) Instead led them by way of the Red Sea (journey from Succoth to Etham)
- B) The bones of Joseph taken with them (cf. Gen. 50:24-25; Josh. 24:32)
- C) LORD led them with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night (Ex. 40:34-38; Num. 9:15-23; 14:14; Deut. 1:32-33; Ex. 16:10; 33:9-10; Neh. 9:12; Psa. 78:14; 99:7; 105:39; Deut. 31:15; 1 Cor. 10:1)
 - 1) This pillar was a constant reminder to Israel of God's presence, provision, protection, and piloting while in the wilderness

IV) Lessons and Applications for Today

- A) All who are born again in Christ are sanctified to God as His children to His service
 - 1) Sanctified by God's grace through our faith and obedience (Heb. 10:10; Eph. 5:26)
 - 2) Christians are the firstborn set apart to God, having been redeemed (bought) from the death of sin with the price of the death of the chosen firstborn Lamb of God, Jesus our Savior (Matt. 1:25; Lk. 2:22-23; Rom. 8:29; Heb. 1:6; 12:23; 1 Pet. 1:18-20; Rev. 5:9; 1 Cor. 6:20; 7:23)

- a) Foreshadowed in the nation of Israel who was God's "firstborn son" redeemed and saved by the death of Egyptian firstborn and the Passover lamb (Ex. 4:22-23; 13:15; cf. Deut. 9:26)
- 3) We now as a holy priesthood give ourselves as living sacrifices to God's service (Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Pet. 2:5; Heb. 13:10-15)
- B) Leaven is symbolic of that which can infiltrate and spread, and used in two senses
 - 1) *Good* – the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 13:33)
 - 2) *Bad* – evil and false doctrine (Lk. 12:1; Matt. 16:6, 12; 1 Cor. 5:6-8; Gal. 5:9)
- C) The faith is to be passed from one generation to the next – teach the children (Eph. 6:4)
- D) The way God directs us is not always the "easy" path (Matt. 7:14; 2 Tim. 2:3)
- E) Joseph died fully believing the promises of God – great example of faith (Heb. 11:22)
- F) God's word is a "pillar" and light of truth to guide, provide, protect, and comfort our souls today (Psa. 119:105; 2 Pet. 1:19)

Conclusion

Israel now is camped by the Red Sea and will soon face its first great test of faith in their journey