



EXODUS

FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM

BIBLE TEXT | EXODUS 13:1-16

1 The Lord said to Moses, **2** "Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine." **3** Then Moses said to the people, "Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the Lord brought you out from this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten. **4** Today, in the month of Abib, you are going out. **5** And when the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which he swore to your fathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, you shall keep this service in this month. **6** Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a feast to the Lord. **7** Unleavened bread shall be eaten for seven days; no leavened bread shall be seen with you, and no leaven shall be seen with you in all your territory. **8** You shall tell your son on that day, 'It is because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.' **9** And it shall be to you as a sign on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the law of the Lord may be in your mouth. For with a strong hand the Lord has brought you out of Egypt. **10** You shall therefore keep this statute at its appointed time from year to year. **11** "When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, **12** you shall set apart to the Lord all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the Lord's. **13** Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. **14** And when in time to come your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall say to him, 'By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. **15** For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I



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sacrifice to the Lord all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.' **16** It shall be as a mark on your hand or frontlets between your eyes, for by a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt."

DEVOTIONAL FOR EXODUS 13:1-16

AUTHOR: CODY KING

I often struggle to remember things. Perhaps you can relate? I, at times, say that I suffer from short-term memory loss—certainly this is self-diagnosed—but the reality is that most of the time it is a cover up for selective listening (so I've been told). To combat this I write things down. I also attempt to put things in place as reminders of things that I should, well...remember. For most of us, if not all, there are many things that we all do to help us remember things. In addition to writing down events, we most often nowadays take massive amounts of photos and record countless videos to commemorate, in the present, moments and events that quickly become our past. This brings us to the text.

After the Exodus and arriving at Succoth the Lord, through Moses, instructed the people of their immediate response to what he just did for them. In verse 3 Moses says, "*Remember* this day...for by a strong hand the Lord brought you out from this place." Then he reminds them (from chapter 12 prior to the Exodus) that no leaven is to be eaten and then also reminds them of the tenets of the feast that they are to hold "at its appointed time year to year." It is this festival that is tied to the Passover that just took place in which the first-born of man and animal in the land of Egypt were killed. Moses then instructs the people that they are to "set apart" the firstborn male of every animal, for they "shall be the Lord's." Also, every firstborn of man is to be "redeemed". What does all this mean? The consecration of the firstborn is analogous to the death of the firstborn (animal and human) in Egypt. The firstborn sons to be redeemed are analogous to that of the people's (as the Lord's firstborn) redemption from Egypt (See Exodus 4:22). These are symbols put in place, by the Lord, to be reminders, for the people, of what he has done for them.

The text states plainly the Lord's purpose, "You shall tell your son on that day, 'It is because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.'" (verse 8) "And when in time to come your son asks you, 'What does this mean:' you shall say to him, 'By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt.'" (verse 14) "*Therefore* I sacrifice to the Lord..." (verse 15).

Today when sons and daughters ask their fathers and mothers why we go to church? It is because of what the Lord has done for us. When they ask why do we attend a journey group? It is because of what the Lord has done for us.



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Why do we serve others with our time and resources? It is because of what the Lord has done for us. Why do we bow our heads and pray and give thanks before we eat? It is because of what the Lord has done for us. But today, it is not what the Lord has done for us in Egypt, but it is what he has done for us on the cross. It is Jesus, "the *firstborn* of all creation," (Colossians 1:15) who by faith in him enables us to "cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed." (1 Corinthians 5:7) And it is He who says to us in Luke 22:19, as Yahweh did to the Israelites, "do this in remembrance of me." So, "Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." (1 Corinthians 5:8)

God's Word provides us with countless events to remember him by, but how can we come to remember them if we are not reading about them? As wonderful as His Word is, and as beneficial as it is to memorize it, nothing will ever be so memorable as personal experience. How are we then to experience Him if we are not walking with him? And how are generations to come to remember what He has done among us if we are not recording what He is doing?

Questions:

1. What is the furthest back event in your life that you can remember? What makes that so memorable to you?
2. What is a practical way that you can begin recording what the Lord is doing in your life?.
3. How often are you abiding (John 15:5) with Jesus? 1-2 times per week? 3-4? 5-7? What things can you begin to do daily to spend time in His Word?
4. If you do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ and desire to know more about what it means to trust him with your life please contact us at pastoraloffice@stonepointchurch.com.