



**Today's Sermon:
Remember and Respond:
Exodus 12:43-13:16**

Intro: Foreigner

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A. Regulations &
Restrictions

B. Consecration of the
Firstborn

C. You want us to do
what?

D. Why?

D. God taking ownership
of Firstborn Son

E. God taking ownership
of everything

III. We are no longer foreigners

A. The elder brother

B. Dividing wall of
hostility

Gospel Application

Exodus 13:1-16


The LORD said to Moses, ²“Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether human or animal.”

³Then Moses said to the people, “Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the LORD brought you out of it with a mighty hand. Eat nothing containing yeast. ⁴Today, in the month of Aviv, you are leaving. ⁵When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites and Jebusites—the land he swore to your ancestors to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey—you are to observe this ceremony in this month: ⁶For seven days eat bread made without yeast and on the seventh day hold a festival to the LORD. ⁷Eat unleavened bread during those seven days; nothing with yeast in it is to be seen among you, nor shall any yeast be seen anywhere within your borders. ⁸On that day tell your son, ‘I do this because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.’ ⁹This observance will be for you like a sign on your hand and a reminder on your forehead that this law of the LORD is to be on your lips. For the LORD brought you out of Egypt with his mighty hand. ¹⁰You must keep this ordinance at the appointed time year after year.

¹¹“After the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites and gives it to you, as he promised on oath to you and your ancestors, ¹²you are to give over to the LORD the first offspring of every womb. All the firstborn males of your livestock belong to the LORD. ¹³Redeem with a lamb every firstborn donkey, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem every firstborn among your sons.

¹⁴“In days to come, when your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ say to him, ‘With a mighty hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ¹⁵When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed the firstborn of both people and animals in Egypt. This is why I sacrifice to the LORD the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my firstborn sons.’ ¹⁶And it will be like a sign on your hand and a symbol on your forehead that the LORD brought us out of Egypt with his mighty hand.”



The page is framed by a wide, intricate border of floral and foliate motifs. The design features scrolling vines in shades of blue, orange, and green, interspersed with small, stylized flowers and leaves. The background of the border is a light, textured gold or cream color. The central text is set within a rectangular frame defined by a thin gold line.

The Gospel
According to
MOSES
a study of exodus

Today's Message:
Remember and Respond
Exodus 12:43-13:16

Passover Regulations & Restrictions

Exodus 12:43-13:16

⁴³ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “These are the regulations for the Passover meal:

“No foreigner may eat it. ⁴⁴ Any slave you have bought may eat it after you have circumcised him, ⁴⁵ but a temporary resident or a hired worker may not eat it.

⁴⁶ “It must be eaten inside the house; take none of the meat outside the house. Do not break any of the bones. ⁴⁷ The whole community of Israel must celebrate it.

Exodus 12:43-13:16

⁴⁸ “ A foreigner residing among you who wants to celebrate the LORD’s Passover must have all the males in his household circumcised; then he may take part like one born in the land. No uncircumcised male may eat it. ⁴⁹ The same law applies both to the native-born and to the foreigner residing among you.”

⁵⁰ All the Israelites did just what the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron. ⁵¹ And on that very day the LORD brought the Israelites out of Egypt by their divisions.

Consecration of the Firstborn

Exodus 12:43-13:16

13 The LORD said to Moses,² “Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether human or animal.”

³ Then Moses said to the people, “Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the LORD brought you out of it with a mighty hand. Eat nothing containing yeast. ⁴ Today, in the month of Aviv, you are leaving.

⁵ When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites and Jebusites – the land he swore to your ancestors to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey – you are to observe this ceremony in this month: ⁶ For seven days eat bread made without yeast and on the seventh day hold a festival to the LORD.

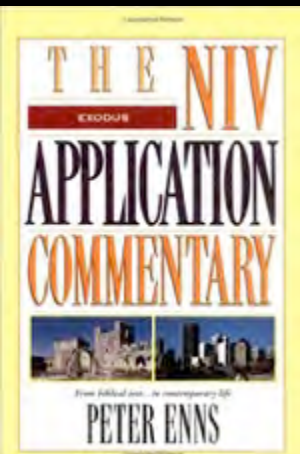
Exodus 12:43-13:16

⁷ Eat unleavened bread during those seven days; nothing with yeast in it is to be seen among you, nor shall any yeast be seen anywhere within your borders. ⁸ On that day tell your son, 'I do this because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.' ⁹ This observance will be for you like a sign on your hand and a reminder on your forehead that this law of the LORD is to be on your lips. For the LORD brought you out of Egypt with his mighty hand. ¹⁰ You must keep this ordinance at the appointed time year after year.

It was a celebration of Israel's redemption from Egypt, which they ought not to forget, for their departure constituted the inception of their existence as a nation.

Nor must Israel forget the terrible means by which that redemption was enacted. The sacrifice of the Passover lamb is a constant reminder to Israel that their life came from death. They must also remember that the firstborn of the womb belongs to God. It is his by right and he may do with it as he pleases. The "destroyer" (i.e., the tenth plague) was not a random type of punishment; it was directed against the *Egyptian firstborn*.

This is significant. Not only was the tenth plague a payback for Pharaoh's decree to kill the Israelite children in chapter 1, but it was God's exercising his divine right over the firstborn. The Passover is not simply a matter of a lamb replacing the Israelites' firstborn. It is also God purchasing, so to speak, the redemption of his firstborn son Israel through the death of the Egyptian firstborn, since it was precisely this catastrophe that led Pharaoh to call for Israel's release.



Enns, P. (2000). (p. 254). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

You want us to do what?

Exodus 12:43-13:16

¹¹ “After the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites and gives it to you, as he promised on oath to you and your ancestors,
¹² you are to give over to the LORD the first offspring of every womb. All the firstborn males of your livestock belong to the LORD. ¹³ Redeem with a lamb every firstborn donkey, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem every firstborn among your sons.

Why?

Exodus 12:43-13:16

¹⁴ “In days to come, when your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ say to him, ‘With a mighty hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ¹⁵ When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed the firstborn of both people and animals in Egypt. This is why I sacrifice to the LORD the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my firstborn sons.’ ¹⁶ And it will be like a sign on your hand and a symbol on your forehead that the LORD brought us out of Egypt with his mighty hand.”

God taking ownership of Firstborn Son

Genesis 22:1-14

1 Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”

2 He said, “Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.”

3 So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

4 On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance.

Genesis 22:1-14

5 Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you.”

6 Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together.

7 Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” And he said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

8 Abraham said, “God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together.

Genesis 22:1-14

9 Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

10 Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

11 But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

12 He said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

Genesis 22:1-14

13 Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind *him* a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son.

14 Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide, as it is said to this day, "In the mount of the LORD it will be provided."

God's command to Abraham in Genesis 22 is thus well within his pattern of conduct. In this context we see the heinousness of Pharaoh's decree in Exodus 1 more clearly. By wanting to kill Israel's male children, Pharaoh is not simply killing God's people or reducing the number of potential rebels. The children whom Pharaoh has killed include the *firstborn of Israel*, God's property, those who will later be shown to be special to God and who belong to him exclusively. By having them thrown into the Nile, Pharaoh is, as we have seen elsewhere, setting himself up as a god-figure. He is doing no less than usurping Yahweh's right to the firstborn.

God taking ownership of Firstborn
Everything

Leviticus 23:9-14

9 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,

10 “Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘When you enter the land which I am going to give to you and reap its harvest, then you shall bring in the sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest.

11 ‘He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord for you to be accepted; on the day after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.

12 ‘Now on the day when you wave the sheaf, you shall offer a male lamb one year old without defect for a burnt offering to the Lord.

Leviticus 23:9-14

13 'Its grain offering shall then be two-tenths *of an ephah* of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering by fire to the Lord for a soothing aroma, with its drink offering, a fourth of a hin of wine.

14 'Until this same day, until you have brought in the offering of your God, you shall eat neither bread nor roasted grain nor new growth. It is to be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwelling places.



We are no longer foreigners

Ephesians 2:11-22

¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands) —
¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:11-22

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Ephesians 2:11-22

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Ephesians 2:11-22

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

1 Peter 2:9-10

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The great irony is that the *true* firstborn Son is not protected as was Israel, but he has become the enemy of God, as was Egypt. In his death, God's firstborn Son is more like Egypt than Israel in that he bears God's wrath. But three days later he rises to exaltation to fulfill another purpose, the exaltation of Israel. Through this special Son, God fulfills another purpose, the redemption not of Israel the firstborn, but of Israel the "lateborn" (as Levenson puts it). With Christ's death and resurrection the true spiritual pedigree of God's people comes to light. The people of God are not firstborn, but they become firstborn through their union with Christ, the true firstborn Son.

The death of Christ, the firstborn Son, is what allows God's people, the lateborn son, to be raised to the primary status of the firstborn son. This is why Christ is referred to as the "firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Cor. 15:20; cf. also Rom. 8:29, where he is called the "firstborn among many brothers"). The resurrection is the first installment of what is waiting for us. It is by his resurrection that we have become *co-heirs with Christ*; in other words, we have become, like Christ, firstborn children.

Redemption is about election, the election of a people who are not firstborn, who are not of any favored status, and the sacrificial death of the true firstborn Son, through whom these lateborn people are adopted to receive the status of the firstborn. The Passover blessing of Israel has been extended to the world. All those who are in Christ, the Passover Lamb, have become God's children.

~ Enns, P. (2000). (pp. 258-259). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Gospel Application:

Remember what it means to be free

Gospel Application:

Remember what it means to be free

Remember what it was like to be a slave

Gospel Application:

Remember what it means to be free

Remember what it was like to be a slave

Respond