

# Moses—Exodus 13

## God Leads the Israelites

### I. Additional Scriptures...

1. 13:2... Sanctify: The word kadash is to consecrate, separate, and set apart a person or thing from all common or secular purposes to some religious use; and exactly answers to the Greek *ἁγιάζω*, from *ἅ*, privative, and *ἄγος*, the earth; because everything offered or consecrated to God was separated from all earthly uses. Ex 13:12-15, Ex 4:22, Ex 22:29, Ex 22:30, Ex 23:19, Ex 34:19, Ex 34:20; Lev 27:26; Num 3:13, Num 8:16-17; Num 18:15; Deut 15:19; Luke 2:23; Heb 12:23. [TSK].
2. 13:3... Remember... Luke 22:19; 1 Cor 11:24; 2 Peter 3:1.
3. 13:9... a sign... “Hebrew writers have generally regarded this as a formal injunction to write the precepts on slips of parchment, and to fasten them on the wrists and forehead; but other commentators are generally agreed that it is to be understood metaphorically. The words appear to be put into the mouths of the parents. They were to keep all the facts of the Passover constantly in mind, and, referring to a custom prevalent ages before Moses in Egypt, to have them present as though they were inscribed on papyrus or parchment fastened on the wrists, or on the face between the eyes. If, as may be inferred from Deut 6:7-8, Moses adopted this custom, he would take care to warn the people against the Egyptian superstition of amulets. Modern Israelites generally allege this precept as a justification for the use of phylacteries.” [Barnes].
4. 13:17... Israel often threatened to return to Egypt: Ex 16:2, Ex 16:3; Deut 17:16; Neh 9:17; Acts 7:39
5. 13:18... harnessed: or, by five in a rank, Ex 12:51
6. 13:19... Gen 50:24-25; Josh 24:32; Acts 7:16

### II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: Wilderness Wandering.

### III. Summary.

The Lord’s will for the children of Israel is that they sanctify the firstborn of man and beast to Him. This is to remind them of their miraculous deliverance out of Egyptian bondage. He mentions the Promised Land and speaks of continuing to sanctify the firstborn when they take possession of the land. Moses gives the people instructions regarding this firstborn regulation and he stresses that it is to remind them that it was by the strong hand of the Lord that they were delivered from Egypt.

Once in the land, the children of Israel are to sanctify the firstborn of animals and Moses gives them instruction regarding that process. These occasions of sanctifying would be opportunities for parents to teach their children about the deliverance from bondage.

God chose not to lead the children of Israel in the shortest pathway to the Promised Land. There were likely several reasons, but the one stated here is that the children of Israel would not be prepared for battle with the Philistines and they might change their minds and turn around to go back to Egypt. They marched “harnessed” [i.e., in battle array (likely by 5’s)], out of the land of Egypt. Moses took the bones of Joseph as they left, just as he had requested. The Lord went before them by a cloud in daytime and by a pillar of fire at night.

**IV. Outline.**

1. Instructions regarding sanctifying the firstborn (Ex 13:1-16).
2. The course followed was not the most direct to the Promised Land (Ex 13:17-18).
3. As requested, Moses took the bones of Joseph as the exodus begins (Ex 13:19).
4. They were guided in the daytime by the Lord in the form of a cloud and at night by a pillar of fire (Ex 13:20-22).

**V. Questions.**

**True or False**

01. \_\_\_\_\_ The word REMEMBER appears in this chapter.
02. \_\_\_\_\_ Etham was located in the edge of the wilderness.
03. \_\_\_\_\_ Not only was it wrong to eat leavened bread for seven days in Abib, it was also wrong to be seen with it.
04. \_\_\_\_\_ Egypt is referred to in this chapter as the HOUSE OF BONDAGE.
05. \_\_\_\_\_ Firstborn children did not have to be redeemed.

**Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)**

06. \_\_\_\_\_ The pillar of a cloud guided the children of Israel during the: (a) daytime; (b) nighttime; (c) neither one.
07. \_\_\_\_\_ What word was used to describe the oath Joseph took from his brethren, long before, regarding the burial of his bones: (a) straitly; (b) secretly; (c) quietly.
08. \_\_\_\_\_ In answer to their sons’ query about the sanctifying of the firstborn, the fathers were to say that it was by this that they were freed from bondage: (a) diligent effort; (b) strength of hand; (c) compromise.
09. \_\_\_\_\_ “Sign upon thine hand” matches up with: (a) stand upon thy feet; (b) relief upon thy brow; (c) memorial between thine eyes.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ The month of the Jewish calendar in which the children of Israel came out of Egyptian bondage was: (a) Tishri; (b) Abib; (c) it is not given.

**Fill in the Blanks**

11. “\_\_\_\_\_ unto me all the \_\_\_\_\_, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of \_\_\_\_\_: it is \_\_\_\_\_.”
12. For \_\_\_\_\_ days the children of Israel were to eat unleavened bread.
13. “And it shall be for a \_\_\_\_\_ upon thine hand, and for \_\_\_\_\_ between thine eyes...”
14. The children of Israel left from Succoth and camped in \_\_\_\_\_.
15. “Thou shalt therefore keep this \_\_\_\_\_ in his season from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.”

*Each Question is worth 7 Points*

**My Score is:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Answers will be found on next week’s handout*

**ANSWERS to Lesson 01-59 ...** [01—True, Ex 12:20; 02—True, Ex 12:1; 03—False, Ex 12:18; 04—True, Ex 12:11; 05—True, Ex 12:12; 06—b, Ex 12:2; 07—a, Ex 12:5; 08—c, Ex 12:8; 09—b, Ex 12:9; 10—a, Ex 12:14; 11—leavened, unleavened, bread, Ex 12:20; 12—fourteenth, one, twentieth, Ex 12:18; 13—pass, through, smite, firstborn, man, beast, Ex 12:12; 14—token, Ex 12:13; 15—tenth, Ex 12:3.]

**VI. Lessons & Applications.**

1. **Sanctify ... it is mine** (Ex 13:2). God had delivered His people from Egyptian bondage. The last plague had finally humbled Pharaoh sufficiently to cause him to let the people

go. Before the plague was begun, God made provision for the protection of His people, but requiring a demonstration of their faith. The sparing of their own firstborn children would place the children of Israel in great debt to the Lord. The Lord is with this ordinance reminding them of His great love toward them and of His protective care over them. The firstborn of the children of Israel had been protected and from this point on the firstborn would be set apart. The firstborn BELONG to God. The Apostle Paul talked about the fact that the saints at Corinth had been SANCTIFIED (1 Cor 6:11). This was accomplished when their sins were washed away by the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ (Acts 22:16), and the Lord added them to the church (Acts 2:41). We, as Christians, have been called out from the world and we belong to the Lord.

2. **...neither shall there be leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters** (Ex 13:7). The Lord was very specific in His regulations regarding observance of the feasts, which had certain purposes. It seems to me a remarkable note of kindness and mercy for the Lord to require that there be no leaven anywhere in their quarters during these days of unleavened bread. The tendency would be for someone to use the leaven if it was in the house. The Lord wanted His people to obey. He does not want any to perish (2 Pet 3:9). We ought to appreciate the lovingkindness of our God in the concern He shows toward us keeping His will.
3. **And it shall be for a sign ... And it shall be for a token...** (Ex 13:9, 16). These two verses are the two texts from which a great deal of tradition had developed by the time of the first century when Jesus walked upon this earth. The Jews took what was likely intended as a figurative description from Moses to be literal. It seems to me that the Lord was interested in stressing the importance of faithfulness to His word rather than the need actually to wear parts of it on one's person. However, by the time of the first century, the religious leaders of that day had really embellished the practice of "wearing" scripture portions. Jesus rebuked the practice in Matthew 23:5. Barnes comments on that text as follows...

The word "phylactery" comes from a word signifying to keep, preserve, or guard. The name was given because phylacteries were worn as amulets or charms, and were supposed to defend or preserve those who wore them from evil. They were small slips of parchment or vellum, on which were written certain portions of the Old Testament. The practice of using phylacteries was founded on a literal interpretation of that passage where God commands the Hebrews to have the law as a sign on their foreheads, and as frontlets between their eyes, [Ex 13:16](#); compare [Prov 3:1](#), [Prov 3:3](#); [Prov 6:21](#). One kind of phylactery was called a "frontlet," and was composed of four pieces of parchment, on the first of which was written [Ex 12:2-10](#); on the second, [Ex 13:11-21](#); on the third, [Deut 6:4-9](#); and on the fourth, [Deut 11:18-21](#). These pieces of parchment, thus inscribed, they enclosed in a piece of tough skin, making a square, on one side of which is placed the Hebrew letter shin ( sh) and bound them round their foreheads with a thong or ribbon when they went to the synagogue. Some wore them evening and morning; others only at the morning prayer. As the token upon the hand was required, as well as the frontlets between the eyes [Ex 13:16](#), the Jews made two rolls of parchment, written in square letters, with an ink made on purpose, and with much care. They were rolled up to a point, and enclosed in a sort of case of black calf-skin. They were put upon a square bit of the same leather, whence hung a thong of the same, of about a finger in breadth, and about 2 feet long. These rolls were placed at the bending of the left arm, and after one end of the thong had been made into a little knot in the form of the Hebrew letter yod ( y), it was wound about the arm in a spiral line, which ended at the top of the middle finger. The Pharisees enlarged them, or made them wider than other people, either that they might make the letters larger or write more on them, to show, as they supposed, that they had special reverence for the law.

4. **And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him...** (Ex 13:19). The great faith of Joseph is once again brought to our attention. He knew the Lord would keep His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and that would not be possible if their descendants were

slaves in Egypt. Joseph KNEW his people would eventually go to the land promised to Abraham. We have to admire the great faith of this godly man!

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

Q A Z X S W E D C V F R T G B N H Y U J  
M I U J R F V C D E W S X Z A Q F I R E  
W T I S I V S X C D E R F V B G T Y H N  
M J U I K O P T E N C A M P E D E D C V  
B N H Y T G E D C X Z A Q W E D C B G T  
T G A R F V W E D X S W T P Y G E R F V  
Y H E R F V C I X Z M N B V C X Z J H F  
D S S A Q W E R L T Y U I O P L S K J H  
F D D R F V B G T D Y H N M J U U I K L  
O P E Y H N B G T R E F V C D E C W S Z  
A W R E D C V F R T G R B N H Y C Y H N  
X M N B V C C X Z L K J N G F D O S A P  
O I U Y T R E L W Q A S Z E M N T B V E  
L K J H G F D S O C D E R F S V H B G G  
J O S E P H E D C U V F R T G S Y H N D  
S W S X C D E R F V D B G T Y H N M J E  
E B H A R N E S S E D R F V C D E W S X  
N Z A Q W S X C D E R F V B G T Y H N M  
O S X C D E R F V B G T M O S E S Y H N  
B X S W E D C V F R T G B N H Y U J M O

[The highlighted words can be found above. They may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. DRL]

**Exodus 13:18-22**... <sup>18</sup>But God led the people about, *through* the way of the **wilderness** of the **Red sea**: and the children of Israel went up **harnessed** out of the land of **Egypt**. <sup>19</sup>And **Moses** took the **bones** of **Joseph** with him: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely **visit** you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you. <sup>20</sup>And they took their journey from **Succoth**, and **encamped** in Etham, in the **edge** of the wilderness. <sup>21</sup>And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a **cloud**, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of **fire**, to give them light; to go by day and night: <sup>22</sup>He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, *from* before the people.