

Exodus 13 - 14

Day 1

Dedication of the Firstborn: Feast of Unleavened Bread: Read Exodus 13:1-16

1. Why did the LORD lay claim to the firstborn (13:2)? See Exodus 4:22,23 (For the price to redeem a child see Numbers 18:16.)

- Who eventually took the place of the firstborn of Israel? Numbers 3:41; 8:15-18

FYI: to sanctify, be holy "In the primary stem the verb signifies an act whereby, or a state wherein, people or things are set aside for me in the worship of God: they are consecrated or 'made sacred.' "
- Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

Devote to the Lord the first offspring "The reason God claims them is because he graciously spared all of them when the tenth plague took the life of all the firstborn males in Egypt. Their dedication to Him is a reminder of what the Lord did for the nation when He rescued them from Egypt, and thus also a reminder that the whole nation belongs to the Lord."
- The Africa Bible Commentary (103)

2. What should be our response to Christ payment/redemption for us?

- Romans 12:1
- 1 Corinthians 6:20

3. Briefly list details about dedication of the firstborn (13:2,11-16) and the Feast of Unleavened Bread (13:3-10).

	Dedication of Firstborn	Feast of Unleavened Bread
Who or What	13:2,12-13 (See also Numbers 18:15-17)	13:3, 7
When and Where	13:11	13:4-6,10 (12:19)
Why	3:2b,14,15	13:8,9 (Note the phrases that follow "because of" and "that")

FYI: 13:13 firstling of an ass "As an unclean animal, the ass was not suitable as a sacrifice, but was a valuable animal for service. Since every firstborn animal was henceforth to be sacrificed, the firstborn of an ass must either be slain and discarded, or else redeemed by a sacrificial lamb." - Henry Morris

"The firstborn sons of the Hebrews were presented to the Lord when they were a month old. Since the firstborn was regarded as God's property, it was necessary for the father to redeem, or buy back, the child from the priest. The redemption price, established by the priest, could not exceed five shekels (Num 18:16)."

- Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary

serve as a sign (13:9) "In later years the Jews interpreted these instructions in a physical way. They instructed men to wear phylacteries, boxes containing passage of Scripture, when they prayed (Matt. 23:5)...With or without such a physical sign, the symbol represented an internal reality: God's instructions were to become a rule for one's life."

- The Nelson Study Bible (121,304,305)

4. Why is it important to remember God's work and word?

- Psalm 119:11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.
- Proverbs 4:4-6 "Lay hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands and you will live. 5 Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them. 6 Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you.
- Hebrews 2:1-2 We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.
- 2 Peter 3:1-2 Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. 2 I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.
- John 8:31-32 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." NIV
- 1 Peter 2:2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation .NASU
- John 15:4-5 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. NASU
- 2 Timothy 3:14-17 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. NASU
- James 1:25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it-he will be blessed in what he does. NIV

5. Underline how a focus on Christ will enable us or affect us.

- Isaiah 26:3 You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You. NKJV
- Isaiah 40:31 But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. NKJV
- Ephesians 5:1,2 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. NASU
- 2 Corinthians 5:14 For the love of Christ controls us...NASU
- Hebrews 12:2-3 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. NASU
- Hebrews 4:16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. NASU

Applying the Word: Tell about a time remembering God's goodness helped you? (or) What are some remembrances of God's goodness that you like to recall? How do you try to remember and not forget these times?

Day 2

God Leads the People: Read Exodus 13:17-22

6. What reason did God have for leading the Israelites into the desert instead of taking the shortest route to Canaan? 13:17

FYI: the land of the Philistines "The coastal route (the *Via Maris*, known as 'the way of the sea') was the shortest and most common way to go from Egypt to Canaan. It would have been easy for the Israelites to think that the *Via Maris* was the way to go; it had good, easy roads, the shortest distance, it was a trade route so food and water could be bought. Yet it was also the road where Egypt's military outposts were. God knew the people of Israel were not ready to face this yet (*Jest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt*), so He led them a different way." - David Guzik

"More importantly, God had a testing and training program awaiting His people before they would be ready for the conquest of Canaan. There was also an appointment at Mt. Sinai." - Henry Morris

7. What picture does Exodus 13:18b "...and the sons of Israel went up in martial array/armed for battle/harnessed/in orderly ranks" give you of the Exodus?

IT'S HEBREW TO ME **Martial array** Strongs OT:2571 *chamush* "A plural adjective meaning armed, arrayed for battle, in orderly array." - The Complete Word Study Dictionary Old Testament (2574)

"The Red Sea [Heb. *Yam Suph*, lit. 'Reed Sea']...The name for the lower sea included branches now called the Gulf of Suez and the Gulf of Aqaba." - The Woman's Study Bible (119)

8. What meaning did Joseph's bones (13:19) have for the people? Genesis 50:24,25

9. How did God lead them? Exodus 13:21,22 What kinds of aid and comfort do you see these pillars providing?

For descriptions of God's loving guidance of Israel, see Psalm 78:52-53, Isaiah 63:9, and Nehemiah 9:19-21.

- How long did the Israelites have these visible assurances of God's presence? Exodus 40:38 (See also Deuteronomy 31:8)

10. From Numbers 9:15-23, what else do you learn about the cloud and fire? How carefully did the Lord lead them? (What do the repetitious details in this verse emphasize?)

Applying the Word: *When have you made a major move or taken a large step of faith in a new direction for your life? What did you depend on for the Lord's guidance?*

Day 3

Pharaoh Pursues Israel: Read Exodus 14:1-20

11. Why did God have the people *turn back* (14:2)? 14:3,4 (Mark locations in Exodus with a distinctive color and/or symbol.)

- What purpose did God want to accomplish through Pharaoh and his army? 14:4b (See Genesis 12:3)

12. What happened shortly after the Israelites left? 14:5

- Compare 14:5 to 7:4. (What was the answer to their question?)

13. What was the size of Pharaoh's army that came after the Israelites? 14:6,7,9

FYI: "14:9 all the horses. The fact that Egyptians still had many horses in spite of the fact that all of 'the cattle of Egypt died' in the plague (Exodus 9:6) seems at first to be a contradiction. However, the account refers merely to 'thy cattle which is in the field' (Exodus 9:3); no doubt 'the horses and chariots of Pharaoh' were kept in the palatial stables. It is also possible that the term 'cattle' did not include the horses. In any case, there is no necessary contradiction."
- Henry Morris

14. How did the people react when they saw the army? 14:10 (Contrast 14:8b)

- What did they do first? 14:10b

15. What did they do next? 14:11,12 (Cf. 5:21)

- What adjectives would you use to describe their attitude?

16. What were the people forgetting about Egypt? About God? (Compare how the words "leave us alone" and "serve the Egyptians" contrasts with God's desires in 7:16.)

17. What commands did Moses give the people? What assurances? 14:13 (How do these counter all the fears the people had in 14:10-12?)

- Despite the peoples' harsh words, how would you describe Moses' response? 14:13
How did he change their focus? Why do you think he didn't get angry?

IT'S HEBREW TO ME: Salvation OT:3444 *yeshuw' ah*; "deliverance, help, victory, prosperity. The primary meaning is to rescue from distress or danger." - The Complete Word Dictionary Old Testament (481)

"Stand still: This is often the LORD's direction to the believer in a time of crisis. *Despair* will cast you down, keeping you from standing. *Fear* will tell you to retreat. *Impatience* will tell you to do something now. *Presumption* will tell you to jump into the Red Sea before it is parted. Yet as God told Israel He often tells us to simply **stand still** and **hold your peace** as He reveals His plan."
- David Guzik

18. Even though he didn't know what God would do, what was Moses sure of? 14:14 (See Philippians 4:19)

- How would you describe Moses' faith in God's ability at this point compared to when God called him by the burning bush? (Chapter 3)

Food for Thought: "In a sense, Moses knew he was in such a bad situation that God *had* to come through. When we see that our only help is God, we are more likely to trust Him."
- David Guzik

19. What *action* was required of Moses and the people in God's plan? 14:15-16 (How does the command to "stand still/by/firm" (14:13) fit with the command to "go forward?")

20. What was God going to accomplish? (List the "will" statements) 14:17

- How would God be honored? 14:18

21. What actions did God take first to protect the people? 14:19

- How was the cloud different for the camp of Israel versus the camp of Egypt? 14:20 (Consider: What warning should this have given the Egyptians?)

Food for Thought: "We often have little idea how much God does to protect us from the attacks of our unseen enemies. We sometimes feel that we are overwhelmed in a present spiritual struggle, but we may not know what it would be like if the LORD pulled back His protection."

"The Egyptians didn't know it, but the same pillar that prevented their pursuit of Israel also protected their lives, at least for a while. If they had submitted to the LORD who blocked their way with His presence, they would have been spared their coming destruction."
- David Guzik

Applying the Word: *What are some of the challenges of leadership you have faced? Times you blew it...times you were misunderstood...times you were set aside... What has God shown you in these?*

Day 4

God Parts the Sea: Read Exodus 14:21-31

22. List what happened to the waters:

- 14:21 (How many miracles do you see here?)
- 14:22 (See also Psalms 78:13)

23. List what God did to the Egyptian army:

- 14:24
- 14:25
- What did the Egyptians conclude about what was happening? 14:25c (Contrast 5:2)

24. What miracle did God do next? 14:26-27

25. List the phrases that describe the contrast (“*but*”) between the Egyptians and the Israelites. 14:28,29

FYI: “Clarke speculates that the Israelites plundered these dead Egyptian soldiers and thereby gained weapons they would later use in battles against the Amalekites, Amorites, and others.”

“We can say that the deliverance of Passover and the miracle of the Red Sea go together. If not for the victory won at the Red Sea, the redemption at Passover would have meant nothing. But they would have never made it to the Red Sea without the miracle of God’s redemption at Passover. In the same way, the redemption of the cross would mean nothing without the miracle of the resurrection. The two works of deliverance must go hand in hand.”
- David Guzik

26. How complete was the victory? 14:30 (What part did the Israelites have in the deliverance described in 14:15-29?)

- How would *seeing* the “Egyptians dead” help the Israelites in the coming days?

27. List the responses (note the verbs) the people had. 14:31 (How had God vindicated Moses? Compare 14:11,12)

28. What other responses had the “fear of the Lord” caused in this story?

- 1:17
- 9:20

Applying the Word: *The account of the plagues and the Exodus are mentioned repeatedly throughout the Old Testament. How would you explain why God took such drastic measures to free His people from enslavement? What does it say about His promises? (Consider Gen. 12:1-3) What does this story say about the intensity of the resistance and hostility of the world? About God’s ultimate victory over evil?*

Questions and Discoveries: