

Exodus 13

Verses 1- 2

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ² “Sanctify to me every firstborn, the first offspring of every womb among the sons of Israel, both of man and beast; it belongs to me.”

God had struck down every firstborn male of Egypt, and redeemed the firstborn male of every Israelite. Therefore the firstborn male of every family was supposed to be given to the Lord.

However, when the Levites stepped up to kill all the sinners that had worshipped the golden calf (Exodus 32), God choose the Levites to be his priests and men of service at the Tabernacle.

Therefore when a Jewish woman gives birth to her first-born son the father is obligated to redeem the child. The father “buys” his son from the priest to redeem him. The redemption price for firstborn non-Levites was set at 5 shekels.

See Numbers 3:44-47

⁴⁴ **Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ⁴⁵ “Take the Levites in place of all the firstborn among the sons of Israel, and the cattle of the Levites in place of their cattle. And the Levites shall be Mine; I am the Lord. ⁴⁶ And as a redemption price for the 273 of the firstborn of the sons of Israel who are in excess of *the number of the Levites*, ⁴⁷ you shall take five shekels apiece, per head; you shall take *them* in terms of the shekel of the sanctuary (the shekel is twenty gerahs).**

Verses 3 - 5

³ **Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you went out from Egypt, from the house of slavery; for by a powerful hand the Lord brought you out from this place. And nothing leavened shall be eaten. ⁴ On this day in the month of Abib, you are about to go forth. ⁵ It shall be when the Lord brings you to the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Hivite and the Jebusite, which He swore to your fathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, that you shall observe this rite in this month.**

This was just covered in the last chapter.

Verses 6 - 10

⁶ For 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 throughout the seven days; and nothing leavened shall be seen among you, nor shall any leaven be seen among you in all your borders. ⁸ You shall tell your son on that day, saying, 'It is because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.' ⁹ And it shall serve as a sign to you on your hand, and as a reminder on your forehead, that the law of the Lord may be in your mouth; for with a powerful hand the Lord brought you out of Egypt. ¹⁰ Therefore, you shall keep this ordinance at its appointed time from year to year.

⁶ For seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a feast to the Lord.

During the 1st Passover the lamb was killed and the people roasted the lamb and ate it before they were asked to leave Egypt. However, they did not celebrate the Feast of Unleavened bread that followed the Passover because they will be led thru the wilderness to the Red Sea during this time.

⁷ Unleavened bread shall be eaten throughout the seven days; and nothing leavened shall be seen among you, nor shall any leaven be seen among you in all your borders.

See chart 1305

Two weeks with four Sabbaths						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			lamb killed 6:30	Feast of Unleavened Bread		
				Spec Sabbath		Weekly Sabbath
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Feast of Unleavened Bread						
			Spec Sabbath			Weekly Sabbath

⁸ You shall tell your son on that day, saying, 'It is because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.' ⁹ And it shall serve as a sign to you on your hand, and as a reminder on your forehead, that the law of the Lord may be in your mouth; for with a powerful hand the Lord brought you out of Egypt.

The sign on the hand and the reminder on their forehead are called Tefillin or phylacteries. They were worn on the forehead and fastened to the left arm above the elbow.

See pic 1310 Tefillin (phylacteries)



The hand phylactery has one compartment with four texts written on a single parchment and the head phylactery has four compartments, each with one text.

The Jews use four O.T. texts from which phylacteries were made.

1. Exodus 13:1-10
2. Exodus 13:11-16
3. Deuteronomy 6:4-9
4. Deuteronomy 11:13-21

These passages were written on pieces of parchment and made into compact little rolls which were encased in tiny boxes as mentioned above.

See Video 1315 Tefillin (phylacteries)

<http://www.levickfamily.com/9.1.html>

However, there is no evidence that these items were worn until much later in their history, probably a century or two before Christ appeared. What they wore during the time of the Judges and the Kings (1350 to 586 BC) is not known but it was probably something less elaborate than the Tefillin.

Verses 11-16

¹¹ “Now when the Lord brings you to the land of the Canaanite, as He swore to you and to your fathers, and gives it to you, ¹² you shall devote to the Lord the first offspring of every womb, and the first offspring of every beast that you own; the males belong to the Lord. ¹³ But every first offspring of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, but if you do not redeem *it*, then you shall break its neck; and every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴ And it shall be when your son asks you in time to come, saying, ‘What is this?’ then you shall say to him, ‘With a powerful hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. ¹⁵ It came about, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that the Lord killed every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore, I sacrifice to the Lord the males, the first offspring of every womb, but every firstborn of my sons I redeem.’ ¹⁶ So it shall serve as a sign on your hand and as phylacteries on your forehead, for with a powerful hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt.”

Now when the Lord brings you to the land of the Canaanite, you shall devote to the Lord the first offspring of every womb.

This is mostly a repeat of verses 2 but we find out here that this would not be implemented until they entered the Promised Land.

¹³ But every first offspring of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, but if you do not redeem *it*, then you shall break its neck; and every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem.

The firstborn son was redeemed by paying 5 shekels to the priest but the firstborn male of a donkey (an unclean animal) had to be redeemed by sacrificing a lamb. This was done because an unclean animal could not be sacrificed to the Lord.

¹⁴ And it shall be when your son asks you in time to come, saying, ‘What is this?’ then you shall say to him, ‘With a powerful hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. ¹⁵ It came about, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that the Lord killed every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore, I sacrifice to the Lord the males, the first offspring of every womb, but every firstborn of my sons I redeem.’

The sacrificing of the firstborn male animals and the redeeming of the firstborn son was another teachable moment for the children of Israel. God wanted Jewish parents to teach their children well so He set up numerous opportunities for that to happen.

¹⁶ So it shall serve as a sign on your hand and as phylacteries on your forehead, for with a powerful hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt.”

Originally Tefillin were worn all day, but not during the night. Now the prevailing custom is to wear them during the daily morning service only.

There were 3 memorials to commemorate their deliverance from bondage.

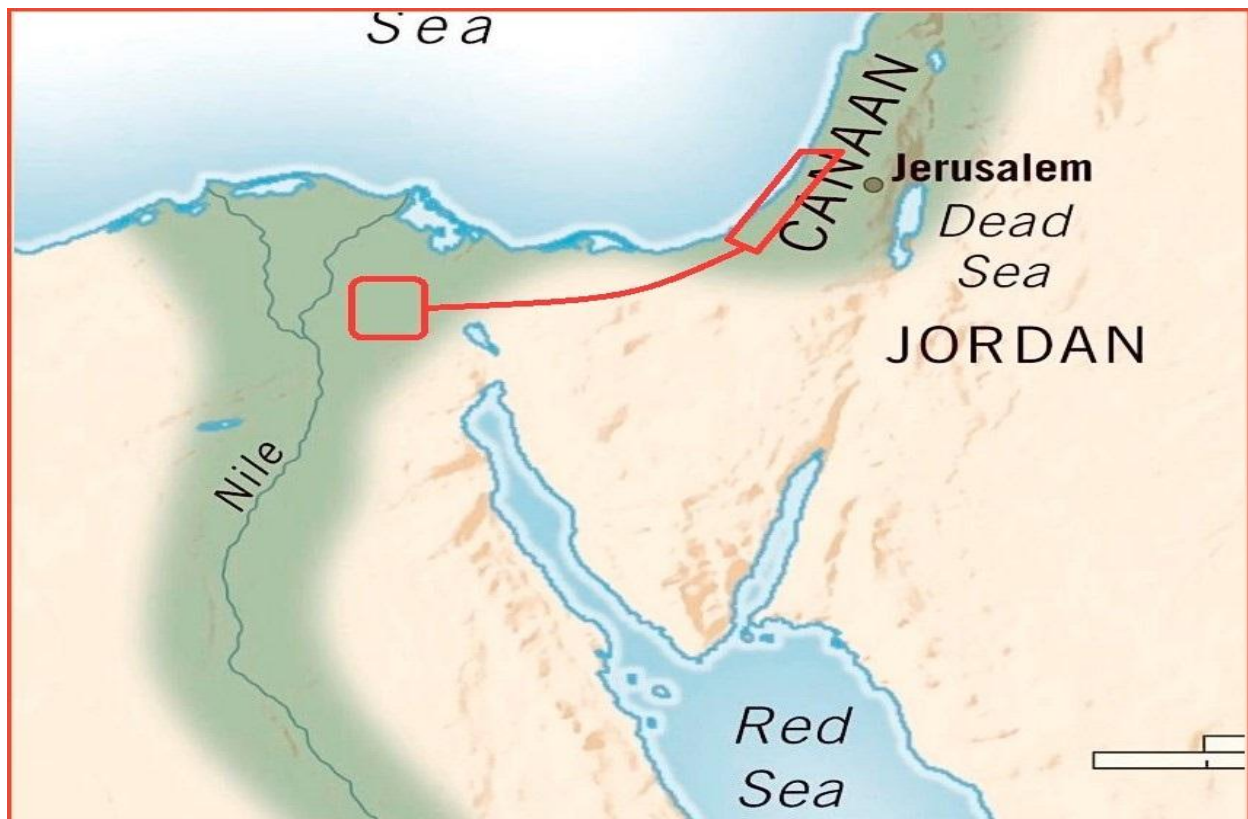
1. The Passover
2. The Feast of Unleavened Bread
3. The Sanctification or Consecration of the first-born

Verses 17- 22

¹⁷ Now when Pharaoh had let the people go, God did not lead them by the way of the land of the Philistines, even though it was near; for God said, “The people might change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt.” ¹⁸ Hence God led the people around by the way of the wilderness to the Red Sea; and the sons of Israel went up in martial array from the land of Egypt. ¹⁹ Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had made the sons of Israel solemnly swear, saying, “God will surely take care of you, and you shall carry my bones from here with you.” ²⁰ Then they set out from Succoth and camped in Etham on the edge of the wilderness. ²¹ The Lord was going before them in a pillar of cloud by day to lead them on the way, and in a pillar of fire by night to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. ²² He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.

¹⁷ Now when Pharaoh had let the people go, God did not lead them by the way of the land of the Philistines, even though it was near; for God said, “The people might change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt.”

See pic 1320



From Succoth in Egypt to Philistia in Canaan was about 160 miles. The Israelites could have been in Canaan within days if not for their fear of war. The Israelites were not ready to face the conflict of war because they had been sheltered from this as slaves in Egypt for 160 years. We also know that this generation will not see Canaan because of their lack of faith.

Secular historians say the Philistines didn't appear in Canaan until the 12th century BC but God says they were there during the Exodus in 1446 BC. Man's understanding of history is very limited and the dating methods they use are not reliable.

¹⁸ Hence God led the people around by the way of the wilderness to the Red Sea; and the sons of Israel went up in martial array from the land of Egypt.

See pic 1325 The Red Sea



The Red Sea is normally an intense blue-green but occasionally it is populated by massive blooms of algae which, upon dying off, turn the sea a reddish brown color.

At its northern end, the Red Sea splits into two parts; the Gulf of Suez on the left and the Gulf of Aquabah on the right.

See map 1330



Israel was lead to the Gulf of Aquabah on the right side.

There is some debate about what is meant when it says they went up in martial array. Some think they marched in a way that resembled an army going to battle and even though they were not ready to fight the Philistines, they may have been prepared to defend themselves to some degree.

¹⁹ Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had made the sons of Israel solemnly swear, saying, “God will surely take care of you, and you shall carry my bones from here with you.”

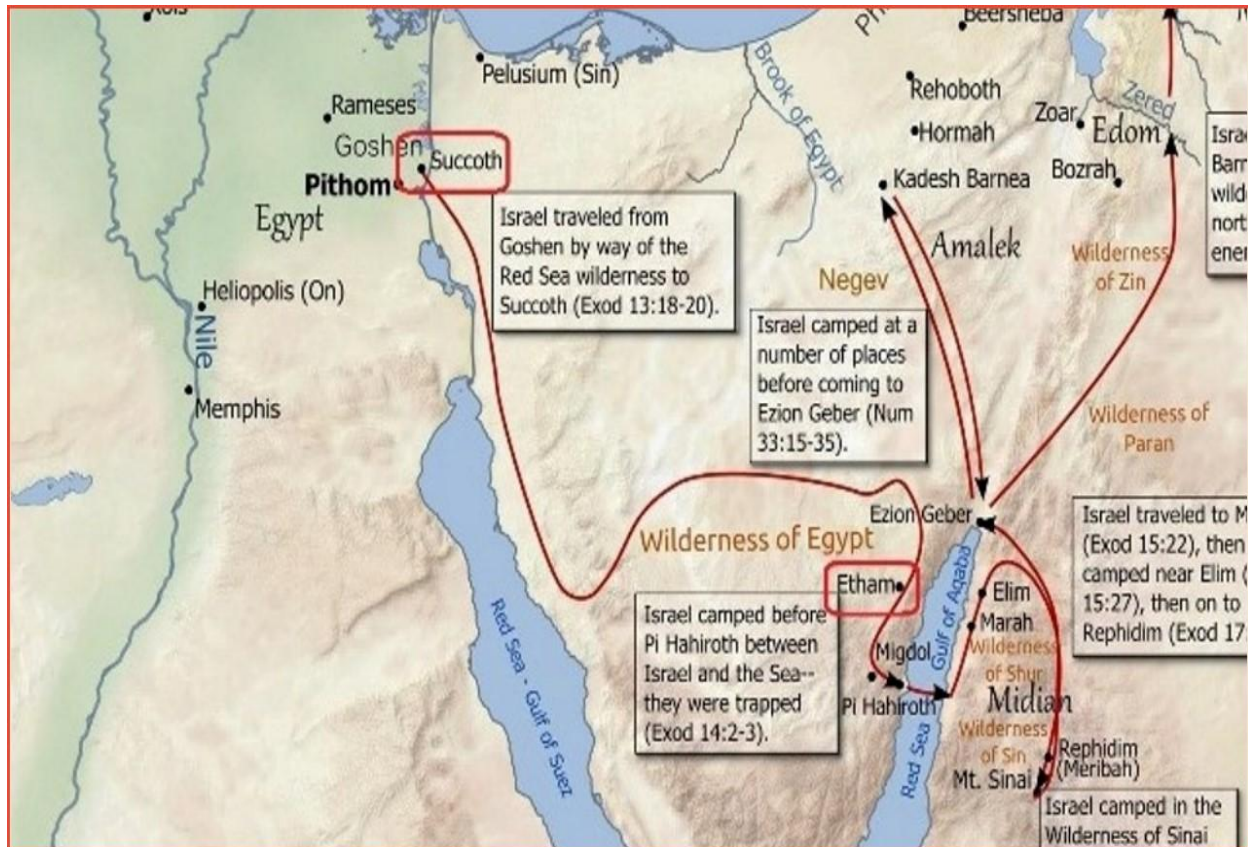
This was a direct quote from Genesis 50:25

See Genesis 50:25

²⁵ Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, “God will assuredly take care of you, and you shall carry my bones up from here.”

Then they set out from Succoth and camped in Etham on the edge of the wilderness

See map 1335



²¹ The Lord was going before them in a pillar of cloud by day to lead them on the way, and in a pillar of fire by night to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.

The pillar of cloud showed them the way and it may have given them some protection from the sun.

Traveling at night with 2.5 million people and their herds of animals would have been impossible without the light provided by the pillar of fire.

For those who think every miracle can be explained by a natural phenomenon please explain this pillar of fire.