### Exodus

## Chapter 13

1Then the Lord told Moses:  
  
 2‘All the first-fathered and firstborn that open any womb among the children of IsraEl, whether of men or animals, are to be set aside as holy to Me, for they are now Mine!’  
  
3And Moses said to the people:  
  
 ‘Remember this day! [It’s the one] when you were brought out of the land of Egypt and out of the house of slavery; for, Jehovah brought you out of there with His strong hand.  
  
 ‘So, fermentation must not be eaten 4on this day of new grain that you left. 5And when Jehovah your God brings you into the land of the CanaAnites, Chettites, Amorites, Evites, Jebusites, Gergeshites, and Pherezites, which He swore to your ancestors that He would give you (a land that’s flowing with milk and honey), you must perform the same service during this month.  
  
 6‘You will all eat fermentation-free bread for 6 days, and the 7th day will be a feast day to Jehovah… 7So, you’ll eat fermentation-free bread for 7 days.  
  
 ‘Nothing with fermentation may be seen among you, nor may you have fermentation inside all of your borders.  
  
 8‘And you must say to your sons on this day:  
  
 ‘This is how Jehovah dealt with me as I was leaving Egypt.’  
  
 9‘Let this always serve as a sign on your hand and as something in front of your eyes to remember, so that Jehovah’s Law will always stay on your [lips]! Because, Jehovah God brought you out of Egypt with His mighty hand.  
  
 10‘Therefore, each year at this same time and season, you must observe this Law.  
  
 11‘And when Jehovah your God brings you into the land of the CanaAnites, which He swore to your ancestors that he would give to you; 12you must set aside every male who [first] opens a womb to Jehovah.  
  
 ‘This includes those among your flocks and herds of cattle… As many as you have. [All the firstborn] males must be [set aside as] holy to Jehovah!  
  
 13‘However, when it comes to your burros; you must offer a sheep instead… You can’t exchange it, you must buy it back [from Jehovah], and you must buy back every firstborn son.  
  
 14‘And if your son should ever ask you:  
  
 ‘Why are we doing this?’  
  
 ‘You must tell him:  
  
 ‘Jehovah brought us out of Egypt and out of the house of slavery with His mighty hand. 15And when PharaOh’s heart hardened and [he refused] to send us away, [God] slaughtered all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the men and the animals.  
  
 ‘So that’s why we offer every male that [first] opens a womb to Jehovah, and that’s why we buy back all of our firstborn sons.’  
  
 16‘Therefore, may this be a sign on your hand and something that’s always fixed in front of your eyes… Because, Jehovah brought you out of Egypt with His mighty hand.’  
  
  
[Editor note: The story continues here.]  
  
  
17Well, after PharaOh had sent the people away, God didn’t lead them towards the land of the Philistines (even though it wasn’t far away), because God said:  
  
 ‘[I’m doing this to keep] the people from having a change of heart when they see war, and from thereafter returning to Egypt.’  
  
18So God led them around the desert towards the Red Sea.  
  
  
It was the 5th generation of the children of IsraEl that left the land of Egypt. 19And Moses took JoSeph’s bones along, because [JoSeph] had made the children of IsraEl swear, saying:  
  
 ‘God will surely visit you, so you must carry my bones back with you.’  
  
20Thereafter, the children of IsraEl left SucCoth and went to camp at Othom, which is near the desert.  
  
21God led them there using a tall column of clouds during the day (to show them the way) and a tall column of fire during the night... 22The column of clouds was there all day long, every day, and the column of fire was always there in front of the people all night long.