

EXODUS 13

Sanctification of the Firstborn

“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’” (Exodus 13:19).

The Firstborn are Sanctified (13:1-16)

- God’s instructions to sanctify the firstborn for Him (13:1-2)
- Moses reminds the people to observe the feast of Unleavened Bread when they get to the promised land (13:3-7)
- The feast was to be a reminder for their children (13:8-10)
- Instructions to devote the firstborn to the Lord (13:11-13)
- The consecration was to be a reminder of God’s deliverance of the people from Egypt (13:14-16)

God Leads the People (13:17-22)

- God does not lead the people by the way of the Philistines, instead leading them to the Red Sea (13:17-18)
- Moses took the bones of Joseph when they left (13:19)
- God led them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night (13:20-22)

Questions on Exodus 13:

Who was to be sanctified to the Lord?

The feast of Unleavened Bread was to remind them of what?

What reason is given in verse 15 for redeeming the firstborn?

Why did Moses take the bones of Joseph with him?

EXODUS 14

Crossing the Red Sea

“But Moses said to the people, ‘Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever’” (Exodus 14:13).

Pharaoh Pursues Israel (14:1-12)

- God gives instructions to camp by the sea (14:1-2)
- God knows Pharaoh will pursue the Israelites; plans to prove Himself once and for all to the Egyptians (14:3-4)
- Pharaoh changes his mind and pursues the Israelites (14:5-9)
- As Pharaoh approaches, the people become afraid (14:10-12)

The Red Sea is Divided (14:13-31)

- Moses encourages the Israelites; promises God’s deliverance from the Egyptians (14:13-14)
- God gives Moses instructions about crossing (14:15-18)
- The pillar of cloud moves to separate the Israelites from the Egyptians (14:19-20)
- The Israelites cross the Red Sea on dry land (14:21-22)
- The Egyptians pursue; God destroys them (14:23-29)
- The Israelites see the Egyptians dead; fear God (14:30-31)

Questions on Exodus 14:

What reason is given by Pharaoh in verse 5 for changing his mind about letting Israel go?

When the Egyptian army pursued Israel, did Pharaoh go with them?

What did Moses say the Lord would do for the Israelites?

What happened to the Egyptians' chariots that made it impossible for them to flee?

What was the result of this miracle with regard to the faith of the Israelites?

EXODUS 15

The Song of Moses

“Then Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song to the Lord, and said, ‘I will sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted; the horse and its rider He has hurled into the sea’” (Exodus 15:1).

The Israelites Praise God in Song for Deliverance (15:1-21)

- God is praised for His strength and salvation (15:1-3)
- God is praised for His destruction of the Egyptian army (15:4-10)
- God is praised because no other god is like Him (15:11-12)
- God is praised for His lovingkindness (15:13)
- The nations fear God for what He has done (15:14-16)
- God is praised for His promise to bring the people into the promised land (15:17-18)
- Summary of the Red Sea crossing (15:19)
- Miriam and the women praise God (15:20-21)

God Provides Water (15:22-27)

- The Israelites complain because there is no water (15:22-24)
- God makes the bitter water sweet (15:25)
- God promises them health if they will obey Him (15:26)
- Israel camps at Elim, at twelve springs of water (15:27)

Questions on Exodus 15:

Why did God’s people celebrate the deaths of the Egyptians?

Besides Moses, who else led others in praise?

Why did the people grumble when they came to Marah?

What did God promise the people if they would obey Him?

EXODUS 16

God Provides Food for the People

“The sons of Israel said to them, ‘Would that we had died by the Lord’s hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat, when we ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger!’” (Exodus 16:3).

God Provides Meat and Manna (16:1-21)

- The Israelites grumble against Moses and Aaron for their lack of food (16:1-3)
- God promises bread from heaven; gives instructions to test them (16:4-5)
- Moses and Aaron tell the people that they will know that God heard them (16:6-7)
- Moses tells them their grumbling was against the Lord (16:8)
- The people are gathered; see the glory of God (16:9-10)
- God promises to provide food (16:11-12)
- The people gather the food that God provides (16:13-21)

Observing the Sabbath (16:22-30)

- The people gather twice as much on the sixth day (16:22-24)
- Moses explains how there will be no new food provided on the seventh day (16:25-26)
- Some go out on the seventh day to gather food and are rebuked by Moses (16:27-29)
- The people rested on the seventh day (16:30)

A Jar of Manna Was to be Kept (16:31-36)

- The Israelites name the bread *manna* (16:31)
- God commands that some of the manna be kept throughout their generations (16:32-34)
- They ate manna 40 years until they came to Canaan (16:35)
- Information about measurements (16:36)

Questions on Exodus 16:

What did the people remember having in Egypt, but was lacking in the wilderness?

Why were the people to gather twice as much food on the sixth day?

When the people grumbled against Moses and Aaron, who were they actually grumbling against?

How long did the people eat manna?

EXODUS 17

God Provides Water for the People

“He named the place Massah and Meribah because of the quarrel of the sons of Israel, and because they tested the Lord, saying, ‘Is the Lord among us, or not?’” (Exodus 17:7).

God Provides Water (17:1-7)

- The Israelites camp at Rephidim; there was no water (17:1)
- The people quarrel with Moses (17:2-3)
- Moses cries out to God for help (17:4)
- God gives Moses instructions to strike the rock with his staff and God would provide water (17:5-6)
- The place is named Massah and Meribah because the people tested the Lord (17:7)

Amalek Fights Against Israel (17:8-16)

- Amalek comes to fight against Israel at Rephidim (17:8)
- Moses instructs Joshua to go out and fight (17:9-10)
- Israel prevailed when Moses held up his hands (17:11)
- Aaron and Hur help Moses hold up his hands; Joshua and his people defeat Amalek (17:12-13)
- The Lord instructs Moses to write in a book of God’s plan to utterly destroy Amalek (17:14)
- Moses builds an altar (17:15)
- God promises to have war against Amalek from generation to generation (17:16)

Questions on Exodus 17:

What did God instruct Moses to do in order to provide water for the people?

Why was the place named Massah and Meribah?

What did Aaron and Hur do to help the people defeat Amalek?

EXODUS 18

Jethro's Arrival and Advice

“So Jethro said, ‘Blessed be the Lord who delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of Pharaoh, and who delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. Now I know that the Lord is greater than all the gods; indeed, it was proven when they dealt proudly against the people’” (Exodus 18:10-11).

Jethro Comes to Moses (18:1-12)

- Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, hears what God had done (18:1)
- He comes to meet Moses with his wife and children (18:2-6)
- Moses meets Jethro, tells him all that God had done (18:7-8)
- Jethro rejoices over God's goodness to Israel (18:9-11)
- Jethro offers a burnt offering and sacrifices for God (18:12)

Moses Judges the People (18:13-27)

- Moses judges the people from morning until evening (18:13)
- Jethro asks why he was doing this, Moses explains (18:14-16)
- Jethro says that what he was doing was not good (18:17-18)
- Jethro gives Moses advice for how to deal with the people (18:19-23)
- Moses takes his advice, appoints others to judge minor disputes among the people (18:24-26)
- Jethro departs (18:27)

Questions on Exodus 18:

When Jethro came to meet Moses, who did he bring with him?

What was Jethro's reaction when he heard of what God had done for the people of Israel?

Why did Jethro say that the way Moses was judging the people was not good?

What did Jethro suggest to help the situation?

EXODUS 19

Coming to Mount Sinai

“The Lord also said to Moses, ‘Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments; and let them be ready for the third day, for on the third day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people’” (Exodus 19:10-11).

The Israelites Come to Mount Sinai (19:1-15)

- The Israelites come to Mount Sinai in the third month after leaving Egypt (19:1-2)
- God speaks to Moses from the mountain (19:3)
- God promises that the Israelites will be His people if they obey Him and keep His covenant (19:4-6)
- Moses delivers the message; the people vow to obey (19:7-8)
- God says He will speak to Moses in a cloud (19:9)
- God instructs the people to be consecrated for the day when He comes down on Mount Sinai (19:10-11)
- God issues boundaries around the mountain (19:12-13)
- Moses returns and consecrates the people (19:14-15)

The Lord Comes Down on Mount Sinai (19:16-25)

- On the third day, the people see the thunder and lightning and tremble at the foot of the mountain (19:16-17)
- God descends upon Mount Sinai (19:18)
- God calls Moses to the top of the mountain (19:19-20)
- God tells Moses to warn the people not come near the Lord on the mountain; Moses replied with the Lord’s previous warning (19:21-23)
- God tells Moses to deliver the message to the people and return (19:24-25)

Questions on Exodus 19:

How long did it take the Israelites to arrive at Mount Sinai after leaving Egypt?

When God declared His covenant with the people (v. 5-6), was it conditional or unconditional?

What was the penalty for one who touched the mountain?

EXODUS 20

The Giving of the Law

“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery” (Exodus 20:2).

The Ten Commandments (20:1-17)

- God begins by identifying Himself and what He had done for the people (20:1-2)
- Commandment #1: No other gods (20:3)
- Commandment #2: No idols/graven images (20:4-6)
- Commandment #3: Do not take God’s name in vain (20:7)
- Commandment #4: Remember the Sabbath (20:8-11)
- Commandment #5: Honor father and mother (20:12)

- Commandment #6: Do not murder (20:13)
- Commandment #7: Do not commit adultery (20:14)
- Commandment #8: Do not steal (20:15)
- Commandment #9: Do not bear false witness (20:16)
- Commandment #10: Do not covet (20:17)

The People Fear God (20:18-21)

- The people tremble at what was happening; ask Moses to speak to them, rather than for God to speak to them directly (20:18-19)
- Moses tells them to not be afraid (20:20)
- The people stand at a distance while Moses approaches God (20:21)

Laws About Sacrifices (20:22-26)

- God tells Moses to remind them not to make idols (20:22-23)
- God instructs them about building altars for sacrifices (20:24)
- They were not to build an altar of cut stones (20:25)
- They were not to go up by steps to the Lord's altar (20:26)

Questions on Exodus 20:

What did God remind the people about before giving the Ten Commandments?

How was the Sabbath to remind them about God?

What promise is included in the command to honor father and mother?

Why did the people want Moses to speak to them rather than God?

Why were they told not to go up by steps to the altar?

EXODUS 21

Laws for the People

“If men struggle with each other and strike a woman with child so that she gives birth prematurely, yet there is no injury, he shall be fined as the woman’s husband may demand of him, and he shall pay as the judges decide. But if there is any further injury, then you shall appoint as a penalty life for life” (Exodus 21:22-23).

Laws About Slavery (21:1-11)

- Six year limit on service from a Hebrew slave (21:1-2)
- Laws regarding marriages and families of slaves (21:3-4)
- Instructions regarding a slave who wishes to remain with his master (21:5-6)
- Instructions regarding female slaves (21:7-11)

Laws About Personal Injuries (21:12-36)

- One who strikes a man and kills him is to be put to death; provision to be made for accidental killings (21:12-14)
- One who strikes his parent is to be put to death (21:15)
- One who kidnaps a man is to be put to death (21:16)
- One who curses his parent is to be put to death (21:17)
- Punishment for injuring another (21:18-19)
- Punishment for striking a slave (21:20-21)
- Punishment for one who strikes a pregnant woman, causing her to give birth prematurely (21:22-25)
- Punishment for injuring a slave (21:26-27)
- Punishment for one's ox killing someone else (21:28-32)
- Penalty for causing another man's animal to die (21:33-34)
- Penalty for one man's ox killing another man's ox (21:35-36)

Questions on Exodus 21:

How long were they permitted to own a Hebrew slave?

What was to be done with the slave who wanted to remain with his master permanently?

What places would God later appoint where one to flee after accidentally killing someone? (see Numbers 35:10-11)

What was the punishment for causing the death of an unborn child? Why?

According to verse 32, what was the monetary value of a slave?

EXODUS 22

Property Rights and Other Laws

“He who sacrifices to any god, other than the Lord alone, shall be utterly destroyed” (Exodus 22:20).

Laws About Personal Property (22:1-15)

- Punishment for those who steal from others (22:1-4)
- Punishment for the negligent destruction of the property of another (22:5-6)
- Laws regarding money or goods stolen while in the care of a neighbor (22:7-9)
- Laws regarding the death or injury of an animal left in the care of a neighbor (22:10-13)
- Laws regarding borrowing from one’s neighbor (22:14-15)

Various Laws (22:16-31)

- Laws regarding one who seduces a virgin (22:16-17)
- Law regarding sorcery (22:18)
- Law regarding bestiality (22:19)
- Law regarding sacrificing to another god (22:20)
- Law regarding the treatment of strangers, widows, and orphans (22:21-24)

- Laws regarding lending (22:25-27)
- Law against cursing God or a ruler (22:28)
- Law regarding offerings (22:29-30)
- Law against eating meat from animals that were killed in the field (22:31)

Questions on Exodus 22:

What was the penalty for killing a thief that had broken in?

When one could not make restitution for their crime, what was to be done?

Why were the Israelites not to oppress strangers?

What type of meat were the Israelites prohibited from eating in verse 31?

EXODUS 23

Laws, Observances, and the Conquest of the Land

“But if you truly obey his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries” (Exodus 23:22).

Various Laws (23:1-9)

- Laws regarding justice (23:1-3)
- Laws to provide help to others when the need to do so arises (23:4-5)
- Laws against perverting justice (23:6-7)
- Law against taking bribes (23:8)
- Law against oppressing strangers (23:9)

Laws About the Sabbath (23:10-13)

- Law regarding the Sabbath year (23:10-11)
- Law regarding the Sabbath day (23:12)
- Warning against mentioning other gods (23:13)

Three Feasts (23:14-17)

- Feast of Unleavened Bread (23:14-15)
- Feast of the Harvest (23:16)
- Feast of the Ingathering (23:16)
- All males were to appear before God for these feasts (23:17)

Laws About Sacrifices (23:18-19)

- Not to offer blood of the sacrifice with leavened bread (23:18)
- The fat was not to remain overnight (23:18)
- The choice first fruits were to be brought into the house of God (23:19)
- Not to boil a young goat in its mother’s milk (23:19)

Conquering the Land (23:20-33)

- God promises to send His angel before them (23:20)
- The angel of God would drive out the inhabitants of the land if they obeyed the Lord (23:21-23)
- They were not to worship the gods of the people, but utterly destroy their idols (23:24)
- Blessings promised for the Israelites (23:25-26)
- Promise to drive out the inhabitants of the land (23:27-30)
- The boundary of the land God was to give them (23:31)
- Prohibition against making a covenant with the inhabitants of the land (23:32-33)

Questions on Exodus 23:

What does verse 2 say about following the majority?

What two types of Sabbaths were the people to observe?

What the three feasts were the people to keep?

Why were they not to let the other nations remain in the land?

EXODUS 24

Reading the Covenant

“Then he took the book of the covenant and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, ‘All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.’” (Exodus 24:7).

Moses Recounts the Word of God to the People (24:1-8)

- God calls the people to worship (24:1-2)
- Moses recounts the words of the Lord, the people vow to do what God has spoken (24:3)
- Moses writes down the words of the Lord and builds an altar (24:4)
- Sacrifices are made to the Lord (24:5-6)
- Moses reads the book of the covenant, the people vow to do what the Lord commanded (24:7-8)

Moses Meets with the Lord (24:9-18)

- Moses goes up with Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy elders (24:9-11)
- God calls Moses up to the mountain to receive the stone tablets (24:12-13)
- The elders and Aaron are told to wait until Moses returns (24:14-15)
- The glory of the Lord rests on Mount Sinai (24:16-17)
- Moses was to be on the mountain forty days and nights (24:18)

Questions on Exodus 24:

When Moses recounted the words of the Lord, what did the people vow to do?

What did God promise to give Moses on the mountain?

How many days did the glory of the Lord rest on the mountain before God called Moses?

How long was Moses on the mountain?