

Part 2 - Israel Journey's On

Exodus 13

*9 And it shall be for **a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the LORD's law may be in thy mouth:** for with a strong hand hath the LORD brought thee out of Egypt.*

What shall be a sign? The subject was outlined in verses 6-7 to be the seven days of eating unleavened bread. While tradition has taught the “Jews” to put phylacteries upon their forehead and on their hand (arm) (taken out of context from Deut 11:18), that’s not what this verse is commanding. YHVH is telling Israel that keeping the Feast of Unleavened bread (observing the feast *through obedience* - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/249>) is a ‘sign’ on their hand and a ‘memorial’ between their eyes. Again, this is not talking about literally putting God’s written Word on your forehead or on your hand (or arm). The fact that the purpose for putting the knowledge ‘between their eyes’ is so that YHVH’s law may be in their mouth, reveals to us that He is not talking about physically putting His Words onto the outside of your body. This is a command to put God’s Word in your heart and mind. It’s an analogy, similar to when Jesus told the hypocritical scribes and Pharisees...

23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

24 Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

25 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

*26 Thou blind Pharisee, **cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter**, that the outside of them may be clean also.*

Matt 23:23-26

It’s good to keep your physical body clean for God does expect you to take care of it; however, washing your physical body *does nothing to clean your soul*. Jesus explains this well by using the analogy of cleaning the inside of the cup and platter because that’s where it’s truly dirty. If you clean your heart, mind and soul then you’ll naturally take care of your flesh body, which is just a temporary ‘house’ that God gave us to go through this flesh dimension, as Paul explains clearly in 1 Cor 15 and 2 Cor 5.

Likewise, is it with this command in Exodus 13:9. We are to put the knowledge of what the Feasts of God symbolize *into our mind and heart* (which is what our forehead symbolizes) and keep them there so they cause our actions to obey God’s Word (Law), which is what the ‘sign’ upon your hand symbolizes. In like manner does God use this analogy when talking about being deceived by Satan’s lies in the book of the Revelations, where we’re warned that people will *receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name* (Rev 13:16-17). Rev

16:2 and 19:20 then call this the ‘mark of the beast’. The mark in their right hand and forehead is referring to having Satan’s lies (doctrine, laws) in your heart and mind (forehead) and actions (hand). It does not matter if they put a physical mark on you, what matters is what goes on in your heart and mind because *that’s what determines your actions* of whether or not you’ll bow to worship Satan and his evil system. Now, that does not mean we should allow our bodies to be microchipped or tattooed with anything. Gods’ Word does not support that at all (Lev 19:28). The point to remember is that those things are not the root of the problem. The root of the problem stems from *being deceived because you’ve allowed Satan’s lies into your heart and mind* (Rev 9:4, 13:16-17) and that will cause you to bow and worship him, making you not a spiritual virgin anymore (Mth 25). It goes back to conceiving in your heart. We are not to conceive lies in our heart. Don’t believe lies. Learn to ‘test the spirits’ and kick out what is not true (1 John 4:1). And don’t think about them anymore. Kick them out and keep them out. *Don’t entertain them.*

So, the essence of this verse is that we are to remember God’s Word and the Holy Days *He tells us to keep*, and they are now to be observed by studying God’s Word, kicking our sin out (repenting) and taking Communion. We are to keep God’s Word in our heart and mind, as a memorial between our eyes for all times. Likewise, we are to have them as a ‘sign’ on our hand by obeying God’s Word and not just hearing it or claiming we’re doing it (James 2:14-26). And we must always remember that, just as it was by YHVH’s strong hand that Israel came out of Egypt, likewise it is by His strong hand (power) that we are able to come out of confusion (Rev 18:4) and put on the mind of Christ (Phil 2:5-8, 1 Pt 4:1-2). And *thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ* (1 Cor 15:57).

Exodus 13

*10 Thou shalt therefore keep this ordinance **in his season** from year to year.*

YHVH tells us that we are to observe His Feasts at the same time every year, which He has outlined in His Word (Ex 12:2,6,18, Lev 23, Deut 16). This means we don’t get to make up the days that we want to worship Him nor decide how we want to worship Him. Remember that He hates it when we make up our own feast days and try to worship Him the way *we want to*. He doesn’t even appreciate our singing worship songs to Him if we are not doing so in obedience to Him! (Amos 5:21-23) And God not only expects our obedience, He *demand*s it. To reiterate, we cannot make up our own form of worship or else we are **not** worshiping Him at all. We are actually worshiping ourselves as god, because we’re fulfilling our desires, not YHVH’s desires. We must worship Him *in truth* (John 4:23-24) which means obeying the form of worship He has commanded us. This really is not that hard if you simply try to study God’s Word. He outlines it all for us. He’s set us up for success if we simply try *sincerely* to obey Him. And one of the nice things about obeying God’s Word is that, It teaches us to be consistent. His Feasts are the same time every year; they don’t move around like Easter does. You can count on God’s Word to be the same *forever*. James 1:17 tells us that in our Heavenly Father there is *no variableness, neither shadow of turning*. Heb 13:8-9 also tells us that *Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever*. You can always count on God’s Word to be accurate and spiritually cleansing (preserving) because His truth is eternal.

Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth.
Ps 119:142

Remember, John 4:23-24 says we must worship God in spirit (with our mind and heart) and in truth, which means in accordance to His Law, because (as the Psalm above declares) His law is the truth!

Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.
Ps 145:13

Passover is *the same every year*, **unlike** ‘Easter’ or the “Jew’s Passover”, which is based upon the lunar calendar (remember what was noted in the beginning of this chapter?). People who call themselves Christians have got to stop worshipping the Jews and their vile religion. If you want to become a Jew then become a Jew. But don’t call yourself Christian. The Jews (who *hate* your Savior, Jesus Christ) don’t have any special salvation because they reject Jesus Christ. Haven’t you read what Jesus told them?

39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

*40 And **ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.***

John 5:39-40

The Jews didn’t believe in Jesus Christ. *They totally rejected Him so they did not receive eternal life.* Hopefully they will accept Him in the Millennium but that does not change the FACT that *salvation is only possible through Jesus Christ* and **that goes for everyone no matter what race or gender you are...**

*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: **no man** cometh unto the Father, but **by me.***

John 14:6

*10 Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: **before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.***

*11 I, even I, am the LORD; and **beside me there is no saviour.***

Isa 43:10-11

*21 Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and **there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me.***

*22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for **I am God, and there is none else.***

23 I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

Isa 45:21-23

The Scriptures clearly tell us that Jesus Christ is the *only* way to salvation (eternal life)!

Exodus 13

11 And it shall be when the LORD shall bring thee into the land of the Canaanites, as he sware unto thee and to thy fathers, and shall give it thee,

12 That thou shalt set apart unto the LORD all that openeth the matrix, and every firstling that cometh of a beast which thou hast; the males shall be the LORD's.

Again, YHVH tells Moses to set apart the firstborn males from both human and beast. The word 'beast' here is #929 in the Hebrew and means any large four-footed animal. It's also translated as cattle, so it would refer to animals like cows, sheep, goat and donkeys. Again, YHVH demanded the firstborn males to be separated (set apart) from normal societal uses so they could be used to serve Him. And, remember, this is fair since He destroyed all of Egypt's firstborn yet spared Israel's alive. YHVH has the right to claim whomsoever He will for service to Him.

Exodus 13

13 And every firstling of an ass thou shalt redeem with a lamb; and if thou wilt not redeem it, then thou shalt break his neck: and all the firstborn of man among thy children shalt thou redeem.

As the Companion Bible points out, the ass (donkey) is given as an example. It's a figure of speech that means *any* unclean beast (large four-footed animal) should be replaced with a sheep. Thus, the donkey represents all unclean animals that were not to be eaten. (Apx. 6 in the Companion Bible explains this clearly; look at the appendix – (<https://t.me/BestStudyBible/12>) for yourself with this link. So, this verse is telling us that any unclean beast that was a firstborn was to be redeemed (substituted) with a lamb and if they couldn't give a lamb to redeem it (for whatever reason), then the firstborn male animal was to have its neck broken. All firstborn males from man or beast were to be redeemed. The word 'redeem' here is #6299 and means: *to sever*, i.e. *ransom*; gener. *to release, preserve*. In this situation, it means to sever, or to separate out the male firstborn to serve YHVH. Now, remember that YHVH later claimed the entire tribe of Levi to serve Him in leu of the firstborn males, due to their loyalty after the children of Israel worshiped the golden calf (Ex 32). Num 3:45-51 tells us that the firstborn man and beast was to give the Levites a 'price of redemption' in leu of serving YHVH since He had chosen the Levites to serve instead of the firstborns. It also gives the price for doing so and tells us that the money was then given to the Levites to support them since they were working for YHVH. And let's never forget that all blood sacrifices have been done away with since Jesus Christ has died for us (Heb 10:10). Additionally, serving God is no longer determined by the tribe of Levite. Rather, it is now whoever the Holy Spirit who chooses to serve in Jesus' administration. As Jesus said: *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth*

fruit, and that your fruit should remain (John 15:16). Acts 1:26, 15:7, Acts 20:28 and 1 Tim 2:7 also explains how God decides who serves the Church and how, since Jesus Christ is now our High Priest and King forever.

Exodus 13

14 And it shall be when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What is this? that thou shalt say unto him, By strength of hand the LORD brought us out from Egypt, from the house of bondage:

15 And it came to pass, when Pharaoh would hardly let us go, that the LORD slew all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man, and the firstborn of beast: therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all that openeth the matrix, being males; but all the firstborn of my children I redeem.

Again, Israel was to teach their children about Passover and not Easter! And YHVH specifically wanted them to explain to their children that it was only because of the strength of the hand of the Lord (YHVH) that they were brought out of Egypt. They were to also explain that it was due to the death of the firstborn males of man and beast that Pharaoh finally let Israel go. Therefore, YHVH required all the males to serve Him. The animals were to be sacrificed literally and the human men were to serve in the Temple. Again, this would later be delegated to the Levites so the ‘redemption price’ was put into effect, which required families to pay the Levites for every firstborn male they had. Why was it so important for parents to teach their kids why they did these things? So they wouldn't forget their history, so they would continue to obey YHVH. Because, once the generation comes along that does not respect and/or remember their history then they stop doing that which their forefathers did. *This is how apostasy comes about.* As the saying goes, ‘those who do not remember history are doomed to repeat it’. If Israel didn't teach their children how they got into bondage and the great price it took to free them from it, their kids would not understand why they should stay out of bondage nor what it even is. Sadly, that's what has (once again) happened to the Chrisitan nations of the world, who are the modern-day Israelites, for they are the true ancestors of Israel, not the people we call “Jews” today (Rev 2:9, 3:9) (Parable of the Tares - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/251>).

Exodus 13

16 And it shall be for a token upon thine hand, and for frontlets between thine eyes: for by strength of hand the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt.

Again, although some people took this literally, it's a figure of speech that explains God wants His Laws (Word) in our heart and mind so that we obey Him. Jer 31:31, Heb 8:10 and 10:16 explain that God wants His Word written on our heart and mind so that we obey Him, yet Moses told the children of Israel this also...

1 And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them.

Deut 5:1

1 Therefore thou shalt love the LORD thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, alway.

Deut 11:1

Our Heavenly Father (YHVH) has never wanted our fake love or fake obedience. He wants us to truly love Him, which means we'll learn of His Word and strive to obey Him with all our heart (intentions, feelings, emotions), mind (thought process), soul (the essence of who we are) and strength (force, our will power) (Mk 12:30). Moses tried to explain this to Israel but, once the generation of elders from Joshua's day died off, Israel forgot the truth and went a whoring after other gods and worshiped devils, which means they allowed evil spirits to influence and even control their thoughts, feelings, intentions and they therefore gave heed to all the lusts of the flesh, pride, selfishness and all other fleshly sins. They simply fell away from our Heavenly Father, who their forefathers had made a Covenant with. That's why YHVH divorced them (Jer 3) by allowing them to be taken captive by the Assyrians first (northern Ten tribes) and then the Babylonians (southern tribes of Judah, Benjamin and Levi). If we don't keep God's Word in our heart, mind and soul then we will fall away from Him and worship other gods and their idols. This is the great lesson from this verse. We must guard our heart against falling away or else we'll drift away from God's Word *without even realizing it*.

Exodus 13

17 And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt:

Instead of taking the shortest route, YHVH decided to take Israel a longer way so they wouldn't be confronted with war 'right off the bat' (right away). He didn't want them to have a reason to want to return to Egypt, although they would do exactly that later on (Numbers 11).

Exodus 13

*18 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.*

So, instead of going the way of the land of the Philistines (who were fierce warriors), YHVH led them through the way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. A couple points to note in this verse. First off, the children of Israel went 'harnessed' out of Egypt. What does that mean? Harnessed in the Hebrew is #2571, which means: *staunch*, i.e. *able-bodied soldiers*. It's translated in the KJV - armed (men), harnessed. It is associated with #2549, which means fifth, letting us know that the children of Israel marched five abreast (five across) and their men were armed. How did they get weapons? It's likely this was part of the 'spoil' that they took from the Egyptians. It's likely that their families (women, children, sick and elderly) were also organized to march five abreast, or at least in a very organized fashion. There would be no way millions of people could move in a timely or safe manner if they were not organized. And, our Heavenly Father is an

enforcer of discipline. He requires not only our actions to be disciplined but also our thoughts (mind), intentions, feelings and emotions (heart) to be disciplined. After all, a sound mind is a disciplined mind...

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.
2 Tim 1:7

The word ‘sound’ here is #4995 and means: *discipline* and *self-control*. It comes from #4994 and means: *to make of sound mind*, i.e. (figuratively) *to discipline or correct*. So, a healthy (sound) mind comes only when we discipline our mind and heart to obey God’s Word. This certainly means that it’s not easy to do! We must resist the temptation to indulge and obey God’s Word instead. There are many temptations in life (as James 1:13-15 tells us) and we must learn to control our mind and heart to reject indulging from them. Kick the thoughts and desires (lusts) out and redirect your mind to God’s Word (Phil 4:8). Israel had to be disciplined in order to come out of physical bondage to Egypt and likewise, we must be disciplined to come out of spiritual bondage. As Paul told us...

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:
4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)
5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;
6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.
2 Cor 10:3-6

Every thought we have should be in obedience to God’s Word. No one but Jesus Christ Himself can obey this command; that’s why repentance is a daily duty for even the seasoned Chrisitan. We all fall short and need to ask for forgiveness from our Heavenly Father (in Jesus’ name). So, remember, the way out of spiritual bondage begins with the thoughts, emotions, desires, and feelings you entertain. Study God’s Word to know what is good versus evil so you know what to kick out of our mind and heart and what to keep...

21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.
22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.
23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Thess 5:21-23

The second point to look at in this verse is considering the word “Red”. Though the word is translated as the “Red Sea”, the word “Red” actually means *a reed* (#5488). It’s been translated in the KJV as: flag, Red (sea) and weed. It’s comparable to #5489, which means *the Reed (Sea)*. So, the “Red Sea” is actually the “Reed Sea”. It’s a mistranslation by the KJV but is translated correctly in the Moffet Bible. The location of this sea is often disputed. Some maps have it as a

lake near the Nile Delta, which is certainly a possible location. The land area north of the Gulf of Suez, all the way to the Mediterranean coast, is known today as the Isthmus of Suez. It includes the eastern Nile Delta where Goshen was located. The marshy lakes to the east and the desert beyond. In antiquity there were five lakes in this narrow strip of land: Ballah Lake, Lake Timsah, Great Bitter Lake and Little Bitter Lake. It is possible that the Ballah Lake was the sea Israel went across for, though it's a lake nearly dried up now, it used to be a fresh water sea. It dried up mostly due to the Suez Canal being built. Consider this 'food for thought' though and do your own research for there are many disputes on the subject. Be warned though that finding the truth concerning specific places the Bible talks about is difficult due to the political and religious strains in the Middle East. The Muslims, who control Egypt, do not want there to be any Biblical evidence that the Bible is true, so they are unwilling to allow research in their territory.

Exodus 13

19 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

This is pretty amazing for several reasons. First off, it is amazing that Joseph not only knew the prophesy from Genesis 15:13 but also that he had the faith to make his descendants take a generational oath to remove his bones from Egypt. Because Joseph was a high up governmental employee (second only to Pharaoh himself), he would have been embalmed and buried in a place of honor in Egypt. He would not have been carried out of Egypt to be buried as they did with Joseph's father, Jacob/Israel (Genesis 50). The next amazing part of this verse is the fact that, hundreds of years after Joseph's command to take his bones out of Egypt, the children of Israel (i.e., Moses) still remembered about it! This tells us that Moses was well informed of his Israelite ancestry, and history, *and* he respected and honored it. Even though Joseph's spirit was not in his dead, embalmed body (our soul and spirit go back to God in the Heavenly dimension once we die, Ecc 12:6-7, 2 Cor 5), he still wanted his remains to be with his people. This shows how much Joseph loved his God and his people, and how much Moses respected his wishes. Due to Joseph's immense faith that Israel would leave Egypt when God had promised Abraham, he is written of in the great 'faith chapter' of Hebrews 11...

By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.

Heb 11:22

It takes a lot of faith to make your descendants swear to keep an oath hundreds of years later but that's exactly what Joseph did. He knew God's promise that Israel would come out of Egypt was true. The point is, we should learn a lot from Joseph's great faith and Moses' great respect for his ancestry for it all centered upon worshiping the one true God, who is YHVH- the God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob/Israel.

*56 Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: **there hath not failed one word of all his good promise**, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.*

57 The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our fathers: let him not leave us, nor forsake us:

58 That he may incline our hearts unto him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and his statutes, and his judgments, which he commanded our fathers.

1 Kings 8:56-58

Exodus 13

20 And they took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of the wilderness

So, instead of going the short route across the Sinai Peninsula, to the Promise Land, YHVH took Israel from Succoth north to the edge of the wilderness (desert) and they encamped at a place called Etham. It's not known exactly where this is. The word 'Etham' is #864 and it's of Egyptian derivation. It simply means: Etham, a place in the Desert. So, the name does not give us any indication where it is except that it's on the edge of the 'wilderness'. Numbers 33 also documents Israel's travels after they came out of Egypt.

Exodus 13

21 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:

22 He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.

YHVH provided Israel with an immense amount of protection. Remember that there were *millions* of people, along with all their cattle and flocks and He provided a pillar of a cloud to lead them by day and, at night, it turned into a 'pillar' of fire to give them light. This way, they could travel at night or day. The fire would have also been warmth on cold nights and protection from invading troops and wild animals while the cloud by day could protect Israel from the detriments of the dessert's burning sun. Note that we're told YHVH (the LORD) was literally IN the pillar of cloud, which turned into fire at night. We'll get to see why He wanted to be so close to them here in the next chapter but what we should take away from this amazing fact now is that, our Heavenly Father is still close to us even today. While He might not be hovering over us in the physical realm, His Holy Spirit is always there for us when we need Him, as His Word declares...

9 For the LORD's portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance.

10 He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.

11 As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings:

12 So the LORD alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.
Deut 32:9-12

1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler; and from the noisome pestilence.

4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

Ps 91:1-4

Our Heavenly Father likens His protectiveness to His children to an eagle to takes care of her baby birds. An eagle is an amazingly strong and ferocious hunter but is ever so caring and protective when it comes to her young. She uses her wings to wake them up, protect them from the elements and to teach them to fly. YHVH uses this analogy because that's what He does for us. Look down at your Bible. Doesn't it remind you of eagle's wings opened up? God's Word wakes us up spiritually, it protects us spiritually and teaches us to 'fly' (be free) spiritually by teaching us to come out of confusion (lies) that keeps us in bondage to our sin. God's Word free's us from Satan's grip by freeing us from sin (Rom 6-7). Therefore, an eagle is a befitting analogy to explain YHVH's protective and caring qualities. As Deut 32 and Psalms 91 explains, our Heavenly Father is there for us whenever we need Him... so long as we are willing to see our sins, repent for them and try hard to change our ways. If we are stubborn and rebellious (1 Sam 15:23), He will chastise us until we're ready to follow Him. But, if we are trying to obey Him sincerely, then He's always there for us; we just have to learn to trust Him.

Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.
Matt 18:10

Like Elijah had an entire army above him (in the other dimension) to protect him (2 Kings 6:4-18), likewise our Heavenly Father is watching over us and can send help immediately. There is *nothing* to fear when you serve Jesus Christ.

AMEN.