

## The God Who Provides (Part 1 of 6)

### His

Exodus 13:1-22, 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

Nate Irwin

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The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>“Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.”

<sup>3</sup>Then Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten.<sup>4</sup>Today, in the month of Abib, you are going out. <sup>5</sup>And when the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which he swore to your fathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, you shall keep this service in this month. <sup>6</sup>Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a feast to the LORD. <sup>7</sup>Unleavened bread shall be eaten for seven days; no leavened bread shall be seen with you, and no leaven shall be seen with you in all your territory. <sup>8</sup>You shall tell your son on that day, ‘It is because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.’ <sup>9</sup>And it shall be to you as a sign on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the law of the LORD may be in your mouth. For with a strong hand the LORD has brought you out of Egypt. <sup>10</sup>You shall therefore keep this statute at its appointed time from year to year.

<sup>11</sup>“When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, <sup>12</sup>you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD's. <sup>13</sup>Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem.<sup>14</sup>And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. <sup>15</sup>For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’ <sup>16</sup>It shall be as a mark on your hand or frontlets between your eyes, for by a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt.”

<sup>17</sup>When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. For God said, “Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt.” <sup>18</sup>But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. And the people of Israel went up out of the land of Egypt equipped for battle. <sup>19</sup>Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for Joseph had made the sons of Israel solemnly swear, saying, “God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones with you from here.” <sup>20</sup>And they moved on from Succoth and encamped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. <sup>21</sup>And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. <sup>22</sup>The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people. (*Exodus 1-22 ESV*)

What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,

“I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them,  
and I will be their God,  
and they shall be my people.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore go out from their midst,  
and be separate from them, says the Lord,  
and touch no unclean thing;  
then I will welcome you,

<sup>18</sup> and I will be a father to you,  
and you shall be sons and daughters to me,  
says the Lord Almighty.”

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1 ESV)

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. What is 3<sup>rd</sup> word babies learn? Momma, dada, then “Mine!” Candy. . .toy
  - That why very next one is “No!” . . .where get that from? Circles. . .
2. Saying in office: “The Kingdom of Self is heavily defended territory”
  - That’s what we want to talk about today. The question of whose are you?
  - On G Friday and Easter, God invaded our little kingdoms and laid claim to throne
3. Theme of ch is OT version of what we celebrated at Easter, 4 X
  - “It is by my strong hand that I have brought you out of the house of slavery.”
  - God saves His people from slavery through His strong hand
4. 3 implications of this foundational truth in this chapter
  - Question today: in that light, whose are you—His, or still yours?

## **I. HIS CLAIM TO OWNERSHIP**, vv. 1,2, 11-16

*“When Israel came out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of foreign tongue, Judah became God’s sanctuary, Israel his dominion.” (Ps. 114:1, 2)*

1. **13:1, 2**—“Whatever. . .is mine.” What did He mean by that?
  - Just that as Creator, owns it all? (Ps. 24:1—earth the k’s and eting in it, world and all)
  - True, but can’t be what mean here, for “firstborn”
  - Just that He chose the Jews, and owns? Closer. . .but still just says “Firstborn”
  - In what sense are the firstborn His that all of creation or all of the Jews weren’t?
2. To answer, need to find place in story again
  - In middle of series on Exodus, break in March for resurrected Gospel
  - Began in Sept, “God Who Hears”, 1-6, then winter “God Who Delivers”, 7-12
  - Now start 3<sup>rd</sup> major section, “God Who Provides”, 13-19
  - God has heard cry, visited, provided leader
3. For 9 plagues, Pharaoh hardened heart. What broke him?
  - Death of firstborn, the theme we pick up today
4. Ch. 12 ends with people hurrying out of land, climax of 1-12
  - Minds race ahead: where to, how through desert, Pharaoh, Promised land?

- Page turning story and can't wait to hear what happens next
5. But all in good time—something on God's mind. And when so, our plans grind to halt
    - Just gotten out of land, stops them at first camp (Succoth) for family meeting
    - Imp for us to stop and reflect, slow the merry-go-round down, hear God's voice
    - Things He wanted to teach them, wants to teach us
    - For it is by His strong hand He redeemed **us** out of our lands of slavery
  6. First lesson, implication of powerful redemption, is His claim to ownership, 13:1,2 "Mine!"
    - Why all 1<sup>st</sup> born belong to Him? Num. 8:17, "On the day that I struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I consecrated them [your firstborn] for myself."
    - Specifically, they were to have died when avenging angel swept through
    - But God, in mercy, provided a way of escape: sacrifice lamb, blood on door, pass over
    - God is saying, **because I saved the firstborn, I own the firstborn.**
    - Owe life/breath to me, therefore mine. ***All whom the blood has spared belong to God.***
  7. What did that mean for the Jews? vv. 11-16: sacrifice the firstborn, cut throat, blood, altar.
    - Now the regulation in Israel: every firstborn of every womb had to be sacrificed to God.
  8. But this raised two further questions: what about unclean animals, couldn't be sacrificed?
    - v. **13a**, redeem with a lamb, a clean animal, who will die in its place
    - And if not, kill it. It's mine, if you want it back, something must take its place and die
  9. Second question in children's minds, esp 1<sup>st</sup>B son
    - Stub's cute colt, alive cuz of lamb, winced; dad took ewe's lamb out back, cried
    - As grew older, put 2 and 2 together, I'm also 1<sup>st</sup>B, what about me, why not killed?
  10. Answer in **13b**, "Redeem": obtain release by means of a payment
    - How not described here, but Num. 18:16 says the price: 5 shekels, ~50 grams, months
    - So when boy asked, father say, "When born, I had to buy you back, did, you're alive"
  11. Picture: boy born, God says "Mine", can give for service (Hannah, "For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord", 1 Sam. 1:27, 28), or buy him back
  12. v. **16**, This practice, a reminder that by a strong hand God brought you out of Egypt
  13. What about us, today? Any 1<sup>st</sup>B, nervous?! Not repeated in NT; Now a broader applic
    - God calls all of us who believe, in Heb. 12:23, the church of the firstborn
    - Remember what father told son: you supposed to die, going to, but then. . . the blood
    - In same way, we, slaves in our Egypt of sin, facing wrath of God, now under blood
    - Not of animal but Lamb of God, redeemed by precious blood of Christ
    - Not automatic, took act of killing, putting on blood to show faith, now must receive
  14. And so Paul says to everyone in that category, who has experienced deliverance:
    - "You are not your own, for you were bought with a price." (1 Cor. 6:19,20).
    - So it is, claim of ownership is total, when He brings you out, you belong to Him

*TWICE OWNED BOAT:*

15. Not just an abstract truth, but deeply personal
  - Gerasene demoniac, begged Jesus to go with Him (Mk. 5:18). J said no, go tell, so he did
  - Sinful woman, weeping at J' feet, wiping with hair, oil—forgiven much, loves much Lk. 7
  - Testimonies from last Sunday: living for self, addicted to porn, adultery. . . They love!
16. Ps. 116:16, "O Lord, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant; you have freed me from my chains."

17. Romans 6:22, "But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God. . ."

## II. HIS CALL TO PURITY, vv. 3-10

*"When Israel came out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of foreign tongue, Judah became God's sanctuary, Israel his dominion." (Ps. 114:1, 2)*

1. 3 memorials described in these chapters. Exodus full of visual aids

- Just saw redemption of 1B; another is Passover (12), kill lamb, remember blood/angel

2. The third is here in vv. 3-10, the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The prescription is fairly simple:

- **Vv. 3, 7:** Every year in same month (Abib), no leavened bread for 7 days, then a feast
- Went farther: none in whole house (12:19a); and more, none in country, v. 7!
- God drop-dead serious about this, 12:19b, if anyone eats, cut off from Israel

3. A bit of a conundrum, for 51 weeks could eat it, so it was around the house

So what did they do? Collected and burned. Quite a Jewish tradition, to this day

*Observant Jews spend the weeks before Passover in a flurry of thorough housecleaning, to remove every morsel of chametz from every part of the home. Even the cracks of kitchen counters are thoroughly scrubbed, for example, to remove any traces of yeast, however small.*

*Traditionally, Jews do a formal search for remaining leaven (Hebrew chametz) after nightfall on the evening before Passover. One or more members of the household proceed from room to room to check that no crumbs remain in any corner. In very traditional families, the search may be conducted by the head of the household; in more modern-style families, the children may be the ones who do the search, under the supervision of their parents. A common Jewish tradition in preparing for the Feast of Unleavened Bread is to sprinkle leavened bread crumbs throughout the house and then subsequently sweep them all up and collectively burn them outside.*

*It is customary to turn off the lights and conduct the search by candlelight, using a feather and a wooden spoon: candlelight effectively illuminates corners without casting shadows; the feather can dust crumbs out of their hiding places; and the wooden spoon which collects the crumbs can be burned the next day with the chametz.*

4. What a great teaching tool! Notice, responsibility for spiritual instruction on the family

- in contrast to redemption of 1<sup>st</sup>B, where boy asks, here father takes initiative, tell why
- We have a great kids' SS program, youth/student ministries; goal: help you do your job

5. This would be, **v. 9**, a memorial—Jews took literally, phylacteries, on forehead and arms

- But clear it is metaphorical, for it is the ceremony, the enactment, that is the memorial

6. Notice **v. 8**, "for me". Not generic explanation, some else's story; it's yours. Personal

7. What mean for us today? Do we have a memorial ceremony of out of slavery, great things?

- Indeed we do! Brief, 1/mo, but important part of spiritual life cycle and comm.
- We reflect, as the Jews did, on the truth and exp of our great salvation
- Point is not just to thank Him, but to keep redemptive experience a living reality

8. Another question here, what's up with leaven, that they had to remove every trace of it?

a) Not inherently unclean, ate it other 51 weeks, not "evil"

- Nor is it always used figuratively of evil. Mt. 16:6, yeast of the Pharisees
- But Lk. 13:21, K of heaven like yeast, woman took and worked through dough
- Neither intrinsically good nor bad— stands for what influences whole batch. (Gal. 5:9)

b) Reminder of haste left Egypt, 12:34, grabbed kneading bowls and fled, no time for yeast

- called the bread of affliction in Deut. 16:3, reminder of slavery and dramatic rescue

c) But another element: Jewish scholars, in this context: evil impulse within us, self, flesh

- Purge leaven symbolize purging self, removing corrupting influences

- Paul: purge out old leaven (1 Cor. 5:7, 8), live in purity, separate from influences of sin
  - Essential not a speck of yeast be found, not a trace of sin or selfishness
9. Theme in our text as well, v. 9, cleansing “so that the law of the Lord may be in your mouth.”
10. Now why so important?
- Ex. 19:4, 6, “You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagle’s wings and brought you to myself. . .and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”
  - Reason brought out was to have place to dwell— likes clean house, germ or sin-aphobe
  - So, removal of yeast a reminder were called to something different than rest of world
  - Stubby, farm, pond, scum
11. Necessitated, still, thorough search for sin and removal; equally scrupulous, on inside
12. Paul, 1 Cor. 6:19, 20, “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.” “Flee from sexual immorality” (v. 18) That defiles the dwelling place of God
13. 2 Cor. 6:16b-7:1 “For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ‘I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.’<sup>17</sup> Therefore, ‘Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.’ <sup>18</sup> And, ‘I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.’ <sup>7</sup> Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, **perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.**”
14. How is it with you? Spring cleaning in order? As a reminder of what He has saved you from
- LIVE|12
  - Monthly, at communion. Should be daily: “Search me, O God. . .”

### III. **COMMITMENT TO LEAD**, vv. 17-22

*“When Israel came out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of foreign tongue, Judah became God’s sanctuary, Israel his dominion.” (Ps. 114:1, 2)*

#### 1. **He leads wisely**, vv. 17, 18. Narrative picks up again here

a. Remarkable verses, remember where they were headed, not just a going out but a going to

- God had promised, all way back to Abraham, the land, now they were on their way
- So let’s get there already! Hold horses, lot more going on than realize
- Sound like your life? Want to get there—now—and God has other plans
- **Maps**, 2 weeks if went straight, but no, detour. . .!

b. Why the detour? They weren’t ready: Shortcut not always the best-cut! **Don—Tweet!**

- God’s way not always shortest or obvious or comfortable, but it is always the best
- As will appear at journey’s end. There are things we don’t know about—but God does.
- Philistines on way; God knew not ready for battle, sheep and bricks for last 400 years!
- Would have preferred serving the Egyptians to fighting the Philistines—God had much >
- God knew His people well (always does). . .ch. 16 want Egypt because of menu
- “He led them forth by the right way.”

#### 2. **He leads faithfully**, v. 19

a. God never forgets promises, had told A/I/Jacob inherit land, Joseph believed, told brothers

- So they did. Has been some 700 years since first promise, about to come true
- How long have you been waiting on God? He’s never in a hurry!

#### 3. **He leads personally**, v. 21a

a. Notice, it is the Lord, Himself, who goes before them.

- Lev. 26:11-13 “<sup>11</sup>I will put my dwelling place among you, and I will not abhor you. <sup>12</sup>I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people. <sup>13</sup>I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt so

that you would no longer be slaves to the Egyptians; I broke the bars of your yoke and enabled you to walk with heads held high.”

- God wanted to tabernacle with His people, whole purpose in bringing them out of Egypt

b. 1 Cor. 10: 4 , “. . .they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.” The

- Shekinah glory, God Himself, in person of +, going with; not only knows way, goes along!

#### **4. He leads clearly, vv. 21b, 22**

a. In the wilderness, you need a guide. They had not been that way before.

- Pillar of cloud and fire, probably one w/ fire in(40:38), visible symbol of presence of God

b. This cloud had a variety of functions, as we shall see in the weeks ahead.

- Shade to protect the people from the heat of the desert sun by day, illuminate at night
- Fire came out to burn complainers N11:1, kill irreverent L10:2, destroy rebellious N16
- Not always a safe presence—if you wanted to do things your own way
- Out of cloud that God spoke to Moses, face to face, as man does with friend (33:9-11)

c. But here, in our text, the cloud is clearly, v. 21, to “lead them along the way.”

- Found where should pitch tent and way should go (Deut. 1:32,33); all had to do: follow!
- Num 9: 17-23, “<sup>17</sup>Whenever the cloud lifted from above the tent, the Israelites set out; wherever the cloud settled, the Israelites encamped. <sup>22</sup>Whether the cloud stayed over the tabernacle for two days or a month or a year, the Israelites would remain in camp and not set out; but when it lifted, they would set out. <sup>23</sup>At the LORD’s command they encamped, and at the LORD’s command they set out.”

d. God is both our stop and go light, and our GPS, **whenever** and **wherever**.

- You say, How do I know, no cloud?! Good question. Easy to follow a cloud
- Think about it: what do we have instead of a cloud?
- Disciples had J in the flesh—better than a cloud?
- But going away. Told them? It is good for you that I am going away! Something better
- “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. . .you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” (Jn. 14:16,17)
- Wonderful Counselor: what’s better, a cloud or God Himself, HS, living inside us?!

e. How do we hear the HS? It does take practice, time, walking a ways with Him

- Jesus said that the sheep follow the shepherd because they know his voice (Jn. 10:4),
- He said “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” (Jn. 10:27)
- Challenge is we have to have faith. But without faith, impossible to please

### **CONCLUSION**

*“When Israel came out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of foreign tongue, Judah became God’s sanctuary, Israel his dominion.” (Ps. 114:1, 2)*

1. Sanctuary where lives, dominion where rules

- This why He has called a people for Self, have a place to be at home and in charge
- Whose are you: yours, or His?

2. If you are a believer, received salv, brought out of Egypt, you are His

- By strong hand He brought you out, free us from sins by blood, bought us back, belong

3. Text fits together: based on that fundamental truth, remember these two things:

- Our responsibility to Him: remember our redemption, and in the remembering, purify
- His commitment to us: be with, lead wisely, faithfully, personally, clearly

4. So let’s be diligent, and let’s be listening

- He is our good Shepherd

- He is ours, we are His, in His strong, redeeming, saving, and guiding hands, forever!

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