

Exodus 13

Take a moment to think ahead



We return to Exodus at a pivotal point: **on the verge of leaving Egypt, God's people are told how to ensure they remember the key lessons of their rescue.**

➤ Catching up

The first 12 chapters of Exodus show ...

... *creeping captivity*. An extended family of 70 people had arrived over 400 years earlier, and multiplied despite increasing oppression as succeeding generations forgot their origin in the land.

... *competition for control*. No matter how powerful Pharaoh's "mighty hand" - as featured in an Egyptian inscription? - may be, he is out of his league here. God's "wonders" - sanctions? - are slowly ramped up until God's deadly force is finally employed: the fateful night of the Passover.

Finally expelled from Egypt, here is a moment for ...

➤ Looking back, around, and forward

How do you need to think NOW about what has happened?

- Remember God is mighty – see the "strong hand" references. What has shown God's might even more dramatically to the followers of Jesus (1 Corinthians 6:4, Ephesians 1:19-20)?
- These facts will have implications for our lives: *therefore* ...

How do you need to plan NOW for the future?

In the context of the future Passover meals, the people are told that they will need to be pro-active (*you shall tell* (8)) and reactive (*when ... your son asks* (14)). How are we to plan for *both*? But how do we know which to employ – and when (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2)?

In the more Orthodox Jewish context, considerable ritual has been incorporated into the Passover service, and in a literal

application of "a sign on your hand", etc (9). How may rituals *help* obedience? And how may rituals *hinder* obedience?

How far should we seek to summarise Christian discipleship into rules to follow?

➤ Significant snippets

- *The forefather's faith* (19)

See also Genesis 50:25 and Hebrews 11:22. How much faith does this take?

- *Protection for the journey* (21)

We will see more of this later in the book. How do you picture this? What's the significance?

- *The theme of the "firstborn"*

Check back through these first chapters of Exodus for mentions of "firstborn".

What is the significance of Jesus being "God's firstborn" (Colossians 1:15, Hebrews 1:6)?