

Let us begin the seventh lecture on Exodus. / In Chapter 13, God commands the Israelites to depart and he leads them with pillars of cloud and fire.

/Please read 13:1-2. / The LORD said to Moses, "Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether man or animal."

/"The first offspring of every womb" refers to firstborn males of man and animal. / Firstborns of humans. / Why did God tell the people to consecrate to him every firstborn male? / First, because the firstborn belonged to God.

/Second, when God judged the firstborn of the Egyptians, he let the firstborn of the Israelites live. / The firstborn belonged to God. / This is the same principle as the offering of first fruits to God.

/Offering the firstborn to God and offering the first fruits to God was the same as giving tithes to God. / Offering the firstborn to God had the same meaning as offering tithes to God.

/Though anyone who offers tithes only offers one-tenth of his earnings to God, it has the meaning of giving his all to God.

/Therefore, it says that God will open the gates of heaven and pour out his blessings to those who give the firstborn and tithes to God.

/Verses 3-4. / Then Moses said to the people, "Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the LORD brought you out of it with a mighty hand. Eat nothing containing yeast. Today, in the month of Abib, you are leaving.

/Verses 5-6. / When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites and Jebusites-- the land he swore to your forefathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey-- you are to observe this ceremony in this month: For seven days eat bread made without yeast and on the seventh day hold a festival to the LORD.

/The Passover is on the fourteenth day of the first month. / The Feast of Unleavened Bread begins on the night of the Passover. / The Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread begin on the same day and last for seven days.

/The fourteenth day of the first month is the Passover, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread is celebrated for eight days. / The Feast of Unleavened Bread begins on the fifteenth day of the first month.

/The Feast of Unleavened Bread is a festival where the Israelites eat bread without yeast. / The “yeast” symbolizes sin and corruption. / Unleavened bread symbolizes believers whose sins have been removed. / God’s people and the church of Jesus should not allow yeast to enter.

/There are two characteristics of yeast. / First, yeast makes dough rot quickly. / Second, it spreads quickly throughout the dough. / If yeast enters the church, it must quickly be discovered and removed.

/The month of Aviv is also called the month of Nisan, and they are both the first month. / God said that the land of Canaan is land flowing with milk and honey. / Why was it so? / It was because it was the land where God would be with the Israelites.

/Any place that God is in is land where milk and honey flow. / “Milk” also symbolizes God’s word. / 1 Peter 2:2 says, we must crave pure spiritual milk like newborn babies.

/Also, Psalm 19:10 / tells us to love God’s words more than gold, than must pure gold. / This is because God’s word is sweeter than honey.

/When we feel that God’s word is sweeter than honey, it means that we will receive grace. /If believers do not want to listen to God’s word and feel that it is burdensome, it is a time of temptations for them.

/We must never think, “I have learned a lot about God’s word, so I do not have anything more to learn.” / Even if we learn about God’s word our entire lives, we will only know a little bit about God.

/Verses 7-8. / Eat unleavened bread during those seven days; nothing with yeast in it is to be seen among you, nor shall any yeast be seen anywhere within your borders. On that day tell your son, 'I do this because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.'

/When they ate unleavened bread for seven days, it signified the removal of sins. /1 Thessalonians 5:22 says, /avoid every kind of evil.

/We must not befriend evil people. / This is because they corrupt our good acts. / God told the Israelites to celebrate the Passover and the Feast the Unleavened Bread, and teach their children about it.

/They were to continually teach their children God's word and teachings. / We believers must teach God's word to our children.

/We must teach our children that God's word is not something burdensome, but is full of blessings.

/Verses 9-10. / This observance will be for you like a sign on your hand and a reminder on your forehead that the law of the LORD is to be on your lips. For the LORD brought you out of Egypt with his mighty hand. You must keep this ordinance at the appointed time year after year.

/This observance would be like a sign on their hands. / It would be like a reminder between their eyes. / This means that whatever we see or think must be done according to God's word.

/We must not forget God's word, just as if his word is written between our eyes. /They were to celebrate the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread on the fourteenth day of the first month.

/The Passover symbolizes the time when believers received salvation through faith in Jesus. / Thus, believers are to live apart from sin, and must not forget the grace of God's redemption.

/Verses 11-12. / "After the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites and gives it to you, as he promised on oath to you and your forefathers, you are to give over to the LORD the first offspring of every womb. All the firstborn males of your livestock belong to the LORD.

/It says that when God leads the Israelites and brings them into the land of Canaan, / they are to set apart all the firstborn for God. / Set apart the males.

/Why males though? / This taught that Jesus Christ would come down to this earth as a male. / Ephesians 5:2 says that Christ gave himself up for us, to be offered to God.

/Verse 13. / Redeem with a lamb every firstborn donkey, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem every firstborn among your sons.

/God told them that every firstborn donkey was to be redeemed with a lamb. / God considered donkeys unclean. / Leviticus 12:4. / If they did not redeem it with a lamb, they were to break the neck of the donkey.

/They were to punish and kill it. / The giving of the firstborn was allowed to be substituted with five shekels of silver. / The people paid that price in place of giving their firstborn to God.

/Numbers 18:15-16. / Today, it means to give oneself to God. / We do not belong to ourselves, but we belong to God because we have been redeemed by God.

/Thus, a believer has nothing that belongs to him. / In Romans 12:1, it says that we are to offer ourselves as holy, living sacrifices to God. / We must offer ourselves as holy and living sacrifices daily to God.

/Verses 14-16. / "In days to come, when your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' say to him, 'With a mighty hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed every firstborn in Egypt, both man and animal. This is why I sacrifice to the LORD the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my firstborn sons.' And it will be like a sign on your hand and a symbol on your forehead that the LORD brought us out of Egypt with his mighty hand."

/Their children may ask, "Father, Mother, why do we have to celebrate the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread?" / "Why do we keep the Sabbath? Why do we have to offer tithes?"

/The parents were to teach their children, clearly and precisely about what happened in the past. / They were to tell their children that God judged the Egyptians, and when he killed all the firstborn of both humans and animals, he delivered them out from Egypt.

/We must teach our children that when God judges the world, he saves his people. / Believers live in this world, but we have been called by God.

/The gathering of the chosen people is the church, Ecclesia. / Therefore, we received redemption through Christ, and we must live with faith in the truth.

/In Deuteronomy 6:4, parents were called to teach their children about God's word. / We too must teach our children whether we are standing or sitting.

/Also, it says in Deuteronomy 11:18 to continuously teach God's word to children. / Ephesians 6:4 tells fathers to raise children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

/It is a good thing for believers' children to do well in school. / It is not a sin to go to a good college or get a job at a good company. / However, it is a sin for believers' children to ignore God's word.

/Anyone who ignores God's word will surely fail. / Therefore, we must continuously teach God's word to our children, and we must reprimand them when they do wrong.

/Verses 17-18. / When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt armed for battle.

/God did not lead the Israelites through a short route. / Had God led them through a short route, they would have arrived in the land of Canaan in eleven days.

/Deuteronomy 1:2 says that it would take eleven days. / That is about 320 kilometers. / It was a short distance, but God did not lead the Israelites down a short route, but made them take a longer route.

/God does not suddenly bless believers and give them prosperity. / There are times when we have a hard time understanding God's will. / At times, God leads us down paths that would take longer than other paths.

/In these moments, all our weaknesses are revealed. / Everything that we lack is revealed. / Hence, God refines and rebukes us in such times.

/God refines us, just as iron is heated. / God gets rid of the impurities in the gold. / God refined the Israelites through many sufferings and trials.

/God made them cross the Red Sea. / God led them to places where no one lived, where there was no water. / It was a hot wilderness. / The Israelites met snakes. / They drank bitter water.

/God led them to a place where they could not eat meat. / This was done to improve the Israelites.
/ God does the same when he appoints leaders in the church.

/Anyone who has not been refined should not be appointed as a church leader. / If he has not been refined, he may cause problems in the church.

/One must have believed in Jesus for at least 3-4 years in order to be a deacon. / One must also be diligent in giving tithes in order to be a deacon.

/Verses 19-22. / Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the sons of Israel swear an oath. He had said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place." After leaving Succoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

/Moses took the bones of Joseph and left Egypt. / He did this according to Joseph's last words.
/His act of taking Joseph's bones showed that he had faith that God would surely lead them to the land of Canaan.

/God was with the Israelites for about 300 years even after the death of Joseph. / Moses did not take the bones for him to worship it.

/Just as Joseph trusted and relied on God, and just as he believed in God's promise of the land of Canaan, Moses trusted God and believed in his promise. / It says that God led the Israelites with a pillar of cloud by day and with a pillar of fire by night.

/The pillar of fire refers to God's word. / Deuteronomy 33:2. / The pillar of cloud symbolizes God's grace. / Exodus 19:9. / The pillar of cloud refers to the great grace of the Holy Spirit.

/The pillars showed that God was with them. / He kept them warm with the pillar of fire at the

night when it got cold. / Everyone near and far was able to stay warm.

/God kept the Israelites warm at night with his warmth.

/In our lives that are like the wilderness, God leads us with a pillar of fire when it is dark and he protects us with a pillar of cloud when it gets hot.

/Therefore, we must thank God and we must not be discouraged.

/Chapter 14 is about the Red Sea.

/Verses 1-4. / Then the LORD said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.' And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD." So the Israelites did this.

/God lead the Israelites and told them to encamp between Migdol and the sea. / This is the area in front of the Red Sea. / There were mountains to the left and right.

/This was a large valley. / However, God allowed the Egyptians to pursue the Israelites. / God did this to show the Israelites his power.

/God led them into a place where there was no way to escape, because the Red Sea was before them. / Those who did not believe in God would have been discouraged.

/They would have been greatly disappointed. / At times, unbelievers commit suicide in times of trouble. / How did God lead the Israelites?

/Verses 5-6. / When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, "What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!" So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him.

/The Egyptians reported to Pharaoh that the Israelites left Egypt. / Their hearts then suddenly changed. / They began to regret that they allowed the Israelites to leave the country.

/Pharaoh pursued the Israelites with his army. / In today's sense, Pharaoh and his army represent the devil. / The enemies gather all their forces to keep believers and the church from living by God's word.

/Thus, it says in 1 Peter 5:8, / be self-controlled and alert. / It says that the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. / The armies of Egypt pursued the Israelites.

/Verses 7-9. / He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them. The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly. The Egyptians-- all Pharaoh's horses and chariots, horsemen and troops-- pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi Hahiroth, opposite Baal Zephon.

/Six hundred of the best chariots left to pursue the Israelites. / All the officers went with them. / In verse 9, it says that all Pharaoh's horses and chariots, horsemen and troops pursued the Israelites. / They reached the place where the Israelites had encamped.

/The best troops left in pursuit. / How did the Israelites respond to this? / Right before them was the Red Sea. / They could not go to the left or to the right.

/There are times when the church stands in such a place. / There are times when believers' families reach such a place. / There are times when we too stand in such a place.

/The Israelites wanted to turn back, but the armies of Egypt were pursuing them from behind. / They thought that the place they were standing was their final place of death.

/Then the Israelites cried out in fear. / They began to resent Moses, saying that he brought them to this place to kill them.

/Verses 10-11. / As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt?"

/It says that the Israelites were terrified. / They cried out to God. / It would have been better if they just kept on crying out. /Yet, they began to blame Moses. / They put all responsibility on Moses.

/They said, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die?" / When Peter saw Jesus, he walked on water. / Yet, when Peter saw the wind and the water, he began to sink.

/If we continue to fix our eyes on God, nothing is a problem. / There are many times when we look at the wind and the water and become seized with fear. / Yet, when we fix our eyes on God, we will become people of faith.

/However, our faith will die when we look on the wind and the water. / We must look upon God at all times, / but we continue to look at the Red Sea and at people. / Then we begin to be resentful and discouraged.

/Verse 12. / Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"

/“Did we not tell you that we will serve the Egyptians? Isn’t it better to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert?”

/They said that sufferings and slavery were better than death. / It was the same as a believer saying that being a slave to Satan and the world / is better than worshipping God and suffering because of it.

/They compared life of faith in Jesus with being slaves to the devil. / Jesus spoke in Matthew 16:25.

/“For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, / but whoever loses his life for me will find it.”

/Verses 13-14. / Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

/Moses told them to stand firm. / He said, do not be afraid but stand firm. / They were to see the works of God.

/We do not need specific methods or ways, but we must pray and be still. / We must trust God and keep our faith. / We do not need man's help when God saves us.

/They were to be still. / Then they were to see the deliverance of God. / We continuously move about and meet people.

/Can they really help us? / We must be believers who rely on God until the end.

/Verses 15-16. / Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground.

/The LORD told Moses, "Why are you crying out to me?" / God told Moses to lift up his staff and stretch out his hand. / Then they would go through the sea on dry ground.

/Verses 17-18. / I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen."

/The Israelites crossed the Red Sea with God's guidance. / The armies of Egypt followed them. / God said that he would gain glory through the Egyptians.

/When we receive God's guidance, a path of salvation will open before us. / We do not receive this path by our efforts.

/We must pray and stay where we are. / We must stand firm. / We must not be discouraged or disheartened.

/Verses 19-20. / Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army,

withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

/The angel of God, who was leading the Israelites, went behind them. / The pillar of cloud followed and went behind the Israelites.

/At that moment, the Israelites and the Egyptians were separated.

/There was light on the side of the Israelites while there was darkness on the side of the Egyptians. / Then Moses stretched out the staff that was in his hand.

/Verses 21-22. / Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

/When Moses stretched out his staff over the sea, the sea was divided. / Then the Israelites went through the dry ground.

/Verses 23-25. / The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

/The Egyptians pursued the Israelites and they faced big trouble.

/Verses 26-28. / Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen-- the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

/The Israelites crossed the sea. / The Egyptians were still crossing the Red Sea. / Then when

Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, the sea flowed back to its place.

/This sea was the path of salvation for the Israelites, and it was a path of death to the Egyptians.

/Verses 29-31. / But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. And when the Israelites saw the great power the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

/God delivers his people. / Through this, God showed that he surely judges those who stand against his church and believers.

/Therefore, in whatever difficult situation we may be in, we must overcome such times with faith.

/Thank you very much.