

Exodus 12:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.

Analysis

The Hebrew 'rosh chodashim' (רֹאשׁ חֲדָשִׁים) designates this as the 'head of months,' establishing Abib (later called Nisan) as the first month. This reordering of the calendar signifies that redemption creates a new beginning—salvation reorders all of life. The old Egyptian calendar is superseded by a calendar centered on God's saving act.

Historical Context

Abib/Nisan falls in March-April. Previously, Israel likely followed Egypt's calendar which began with the Nile flood season. This new calendar would permanently mark time by the exodus event.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does your conversion to Christ serve as a 'new beginning' that reorders your priorities and perspective?
2. In what ways do you mark time by God's redemptive work in your life rather than by worldly calendars?

Interlinear Text

לָמֶדֶשׁ	לְאַשְׁר	לָמֶדֶשׁ
This month H2088 H2320	H0	shall be unto you the beginning H7218 H2320
רָאשׁ	רָאשׁ	רָאשׁ
וְ	וְ	וְ
it shall be the first H1931 H7223	H0	This month of the year H2320 H8141
בָּשָׁנָה:	לָמֶדֶשׁ	לָמֶדֶשׁ

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 13:4 (Parallel theme): This day came ye out in the month Abib.

Deuteronomy 16:1 (Parallel theme): Observe the month of Abib, and keep the passover unto the LORD thy God: for in the month of Abib the LORD thy God brought thee forth out of Egypt by night.

Exodus 34:18 (Parallel theme): The feast of unleavened bread shalt thou keep. Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, as I commanded thee, in the time of the month Abib: for in the month Abib thou camest out from Egypt.

Exodus 23:15 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:)

Leviticus 23:5 (Parallel theme): In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD'S passover.

Numbers 28:16 (Parallel theme): And in the fourteenth day of the first month is the passover of the LORD.

Esther 3:7 (Parallel theme): In the first month, that is, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, to the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar.

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