

Exodus 13:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine.

Analysis

The comprehensive scope—'whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast'—means every firstborn life belongs to God. The phrase 'openeth the matrix' (peter rechem, פֶּטֶר רֶחֶם) literally means 'first issue of the womb.' The declaration 'it is mine' asserts divine ownership based on redemption. This anticipates Christ as God's firstborn (Colossians 1:15), consecrated for redemptive purposes.

Historical Context

This law created an ongoing tribute to God for the exodus. Firstborn sons were either dedicated to God's service or redeemed with a price (Numbers 18:15-16).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does dedicating all firstborn to God picture the truth that everything you have belongs to Him by right of redemption?

2. What does God claiming both human and animal firstborn teach about His sovereignty over all creation?

Interlinear Text

קִדְּשׁ	לִּי	כָּל	בְּכֹרֹת	כָּל	פֶּתַח	כָּל	רֶחֶם
Sanctify	H0	H3605	unto me all the firstborn	whatsoever openeth	H3605	the womb	
H6942			H1060	H6363		H7358	
בְּכֵנִי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	בְּאָדָם	וּבְבֵהֵמָה	לִּי	הוּא:		
among the children	of Israel	both of man	and of beast	H0	H1931		
H1121	H3478	H120	H929				

Additional Cross-References

Luke 2:23 (Parallel theme): (As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;)

Numbers 3:13 (References Israel): Because all the firstborn are mine; for on the day that I smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I hallowed unto me all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast: mine shall they be: I am the LORD.

Deuteronomy 15:19 (Parallel theme): All the firstling males that come of thy herd and of thy flock thou shalt sanctify unto the LORD thy God: thou shalt do no work with the firstling of thy bullock, nor shear the firstling of thy sheep.

Numbers 18:15 (Parallel theme): Every thing that openeth the matrix in all flesh, which they bring unto the LORD, whether it be of men or beasts, shall be thine: nevertheless the firstborn of man shalt thou surely redeem, and the firstling of unclean beasts shalt thou redeem.

Leviticus 27:26 (Parallel theme): Only the firstling of the beasts, which should be the LORD'S firstling, no man shall sanctify it; whether it be ox, or sheep: it is the LORD'S.

Exodus 4:22 (References Israel): And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, Israel is my son, even my firstborn:

Hebrews 12:23 (Parallel theme): To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

Exodus 23:19 (Parallel theme): The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring into the house of the LORD thy God. Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk.

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