

# Exodus 34:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

All that openeth the matrix is mine; and every firstling among thy cattle, whether ox or sheep, that is male.

## Analysis

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The principle of firstborn consecration establishes that all life belongs to God—He has 'opening rights' to every womb (מִתְּבָר, peter rechem). Firstborn males of both humans and livestock must be dedicated to God, though human firstborn are redeemed (פָּדָה, padah) rather than sacrificed. This principle commemorates God's sparing of Israel's firstborn in Egypt and points to Christ, God's Firstborn Son (Col 1:15, 18).

## Historical Context

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The redemption price for firstborn sons was five shekels paid to the Levites (Num 18:15-16). This practice continues in Jewish tradition as Pidyon HaBen (redemption of the firstborn son).

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. What does consecrating the firstborn teach about God's ownership of all we have?

2. How should recognizing God's 'first claim' on your life affect your priorities?

## Interlinear Text

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כָּל	לִ	כִּי	בָּרָ	כָּל	מִלְכָרֶב	תְּמִיכָּה
H3605	All that openeth	the matrix	H0	H3605	among thy cattle	that is male
H6363		H7358		H4735		H2142

  

כָּל	וּ	בָּרָ	וְ	בָּרָ	וְ	בָּרָ
All that openeth	whether ox	or sheep				

  

H6363	H7794	H7716
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## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 13:2** (Parallel theme): Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine.

**Exodus 22:29** (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not delay to offer the first of thy ripe fruits, and of thy liquors: the firstborn of thy sons shalt thou give unto me.

**Exodus 13:12** (Parallel theme): That thou shalt set apart unto the LORD all that openeth the matrix, and every firstling that cometh of a beast which thou hast; the males shall be the LORD'S.

**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;)

**Ezekiel 44:30** (Parallel theme): And the first of all the firstfruits of all things, and every oblation of all, of every sort of your oblations, shall be the priest's: ye shall also give unto the priest the first of your dough, that he may cause the blessing to rest in thine house.