

# 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 (פֶּטֶר רֶחֶם, *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	פֶּתֶר	רֶחֶם	לִי	וְכָל	מִקֶּלֶב	תֵּזֶר
H3605	All that openeth	the matrix	H0	H3605	among thy cattle	that is male
	H6363	H7358			H4735	H2142
	פֶּתֶר	שֶׁאוֹר	וְשֶׁחֶבֶד:			
	All that openeth	whether ox	or sheep			
	H6363	H7794	H7716			

## 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.