

Exodus 13-15

June 19, 2011

Introduction:

Pharaoh has finally told Moses and Israel to go and worship in the wilderness. Egypt has been devastated with plagues, the firstborn of Egypt have died, and the Egyptians have given the Jews their silver and gold.

13:1-16: What happens in chapter 13 verses 1 to 16?

- God tells the Jews that their firstborn belong to him. Animals will be sacrificed and, their children must be redeemed by giving an offering. They are also told again about keeping the **Feast of Unleavened Bread**.

13:2: What are some of the other “firsts” that God expects from us?

- We are to seek ([Matthew 6:33](#)) and love God first ([Exodus 20:3](#)). We are to give to God first ([Proverbs 3:9](#)).
- In the Old Testament, they worked [six days](#) and then rested to remind themselves that they belonged to God.
- In the New Testament and now we rest and worship on the first day of the week to remind ourselves that we belong to God.
- God always gives us a test to see if we will love Him and trust Him. In the Garden of Eden there was one tree that they were not to eat from. We get [six days](#) to work, but the [seventh day](#) is His day. Giving the Lord His tithes ([Leviticus 27:3](#)) is another test. 3 here is the scale of values to be used. A man between the ages of twenty and sixty is valued at fifty shekels of silver, as measured by the sanctuary shekel. [NLT](#)

13:7-8: How important are traditions to passing on our faith?

- Traditions are very important. The Feast of Unleavened Bread was an annual reminder to the Jews and an annual lesson to the Jewish children about the power and faithfulness of God. Passover and the Day of Atonement were annual, so were many other feasts. The Lord's Supper / Communion are done repeatedly so that we never forget what Christ has done for us.

13:15: What is the picture for us in verse 15?

- We give / sacrifice income when we tithe and give offerings. The sacrificed animals were a sacrifice of income potential. We also learn here about redemption. Christ would have to purchase us for us to be His.

13:17-22: What takes place in verses 17 to 22?

- Israel leaves Egypt. They do not travel the shorter route because they would have immediately been in battle with the Philistines. They carry the bones of Joseph with them to fulfill their promise to him [400 years earlier](#). God leads them miraculously with a cloud by day and a fire in the sky by night.

14:1-14: What do we learn in chapter 14 verses 1 to 14?

- After the Jews leave Egypt, Pharaoh's heart is hardened and he decides to pursue them and bring them back. The Jews are afraid and complain to Moses. The people fail to trust God and “**awful-ize**” the situation saying that they should have remained slaves in Egypt rather than dying in the wilderness. Moses trusts God and tells them that God will fight for them.

What does it mean to “awful-ize” and how do we do it today?

- Some people always assume the worst. They make the negatives in their lives bigger than they really are. Everything is tragic and the “end of the world”.

Do you assume the worst or the best about situations in your life? Explain.

- Some, like the Jews here, always assume the worst possible outcome. Others, though, believe in the best outcome. They don’t deny reality; they just don’t assume that the worst will happen. They then deal with the real problems rather than fretting over what never takes place. Most of the things that we worry about never happen.

Does worrying prepare us to face life’s problems or weaken us?

- Worry weakens us. It never changes what we worry about; it only changes our emotional state. When we worry, we now have an internal problem (fear / doubt / stress) as well as an external problem (the issue). Worry is like a rocking chair: it gives you something to do but it doesn’t get you anywhere. Worry doesn’t strengthen us to face the problem; it weakens us.

What is the relationship between worry and faith?

- Worry is the opposite of faith. When we worry we doubt God’s power or faithfulness. It is saying that God is *not* able to get me through my problem.

14:13-14: Does Moses know what God is going to do?

- Moses has no idea what God will do. He just trusts God to do something.

Does faith include doubt? Explain your answer.

- If we don’t have some doubt or fear, then we don’t need faith. Faith is trusting God’s character and His Word when my mind and emotions tell me not to trust.

14:15-31: What happens in verses 15 to 31?

- God tells Moses that they are going straight through the sea. The pillar of cloud by day and fire by night moves behind the Jews between them and the Egyptian army. Moses raises his staff, the Red Sea splits, and Israel goes through on dry ground. The Egyptians pursue them but God fights for them, causing problems with their chariots. The Jews reach the other side, Moses stretches out his hand again and the walls of water collapse on the Egyptian army, drowning them all. The people then feared the Lord and they feared Moses.

14:18: Notice that over and over through this story God had claimed that He would be honored and that the Egyptians would know that He is the Lord.

15:1-18: What do we learn about songs / music from the song of Moses and Israel?

- This song tells the story of what God did for the people and it speaks of the greatness of God.

15:22-26: What takes place in verses 22 to 26?

- The children of Israel come to a place where the only water was bitter. They complain to Moses. Moses seeks the Lord and God tells him to throw a particular tree into the water. He did so and the waters became sweet.

What does this passage have to do with our lives today?

- Life in a cursed world is hard and can cause people to be bitter. Christ, pictured here in the specific tree that God showed Moses, can turn bitterness into sweetness.

What was the “test” in **verse 25** and how does it apply to our lives today?

The test is this:

- “Will we trust the Lord when our lives are difficult?”
- Will we assume Him to be faithful to provide for us or will we doubt His goodness?”
- Whenever we have difficulty in our lives, we either trust the Lord or we don’t.

15:27: What do we learn in **verse 27** and how does it apply to our lives today?

- Soon after Marah (**MAR-UH** – which means “bitterness”), they came to a place of plenty. Often God’s richest blessings are on the other side of difficult trials. **See Psalm 30:5.** *5 For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime! Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning.* **NLT**

How does God use trials in our lives?

God uses trials to:

- Humble us.
- To cause us to seek Him.
- To cause us to “need” others – **2 Corinthians 8:13-15.** *13 Of course, I don’t mean your giving should make life easy for others and hard for yourselves. I only mean that there should be some equality.*
14 Right now you have plenty and can help those who are in need. Later, they will have plenty and can share with you when you need it. In this way, things will be equal. 15 As the Scriptures say, “Those who gathered a lot had nothing left over, and those who gathered only a little had enough.” **NLT**
- To cause us to realize our own strengths or weaknesses {we “handle” more or less than we thought we could}.
- To show us that He is able to act on our behalf.