

# **"Led By the Spirit"**

## **Exodus 13**

**July 4, 2010**  
**by C.W. Powell**

“1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine. 3 And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten. 4 This day came ye out in the month Abib. 5 And it shall be when the LORD shall bring thee into the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which he swore unto thy fathers to give thee, a land flowing with milk and honey, that thou shalt keep this service in this month.

6 Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, and in the seventh day shall be a feast to the LORD. 7 Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days; and there shall no leavened bread be seen with thee, neither shall there be leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters. 8 And thou shalt show thy son in that day, saying, This is done because of that which the LORD did unto me when I came forth out of Egypt. 9 And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the LORD'S law may be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath the LORD brought thee out of Egypt. 10 Thou shalt therefore keep this ordinance in his season from year to year.

11 And it shall be when the LORD shall bring thee into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore unto thee and to thy fathers, and shall give it thee, 12 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. 13 And every firstling of an ass thou shalt redeem with a lamb; and if thou wilt not redeem it, then thou shalt break his neck: and all the firstborn of man among thy children shalt thou redeem. 14 And it shall be when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What is this? that thou shalt say unto him, By strength of hand the LORD brought us out from Egypt, from the house of bondage: 15 And it came to pass, when Pharaoh would hardly let us go, that the LORD slew all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man, and the firstborn of beast: therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all that openeth the matrix, being males; but all the firstborn of my children I redeem. 16 And it shall be for a token upon thine hand, and for frontlets between thine eyes: for by strength of hand the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt.

17 And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not

through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt: 18 But God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red sea: and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt. 19 And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you.

20 And they took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of the wilderness. 21 And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: 22 He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.” (Ex 13:1-22)

There are three things here to consider this morning.

#### I. Sanctification of the Firstborn and the Feast of Unleavened Bread

A. The firstborn were taken as priests, dedicated to the Lord; They were later replaced by the Levites.

B. The Levites were then superseded by the Only Begotten Son of God:  
Firstbegotten: This is written in Hebrews 1:

“6 And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. 7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. 8 But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. 9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.” (Heb 1:6-9)

C. This was always to be remembered. Vs. 16. Not literally, but spiritually. In the mind and hand. Everything they thought; everything they did. How important is this!!!

D. All this is a parable: a historical parable: See Psalm 78 Dark sayings of old. For us, too, as 1Cor. 10 says. This does not mean that the history is not accurate, but it does mean that events and the record of those events were directed by God in order to teach the church.

E. The Passover; the redemption of the Firstborn; the Feast of unleavened bread: Israel is marked as a covenant people.

1. By the death of the firstborn the firstborn were saved. So much is here. The bible is so rich and layered with meaning.

2. Christ is the firstborn among many brethren: Ro 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate [to be] conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

3. All sin is to be put away: unleavened bread; no hypocrisy and no deceit.

F. Catechising of the young. Vs. 8, 14 etc. God made them a way of escape: He has made us a way of escape. 1Cor. 10.

## II. The March from Egypt. Vs. 17-20

A. Not more than they could bear. They were not to see war too soon.

B. Harnessed: ranks of five. The beginning of the discipline. They went up together; not a mob of individuals each doing his own thing.

C. The bones of Joseph. The fulfillment of promise. The bones of Joseph in Egypt were not magic bones that worked miracles, but they were a reminder of the promise that they would in the fourth generation return to Canaan. Joseph had given instructions concerning his bones.

## III. The Pillar of Fire and Pillar of Cloud.

A. One Pillar: cloud by day for shelter; fire by night for direction.

B. 19 Yet thou in thy manifold mercies forsookest them not in the wilderness: the pillar of the cloud departed not from them by day, to lead them in the way; neither the pillar of fire by night, to show them light, and the way wherein they should go. 20 Thou gavest also thy good spirit to instruct them, and witheldest not thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst. 21 Yea, forty years didst thou sustain them in the wilderness, so that they lacked nothing; their clothes waxed not old, and their feet swelled not. Nehemiah 9:19-21

C. This is promised to us in the New Covenant: See Isaiah 4, which speaks of the coming of Messiah and the New Covenant. Is. 4:4-6 “4 When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning. 5 And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defence. 6 And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain.” (Isa 4:4-6)

D. This speaks of the Lord Jesus and His Spirit.

1. As many as are led by the Spirit, they are the sons of God. Romans 8
2. Ps 43:3 O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles.
3. “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.” (Joh 16:13)
4. “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,” (Eph 1:13)
5. The Lord Jesus is our refuge and safety: I am with you always even to the end of the world. By His Word and Spirit.
6. Spirit: John 14: “15. If ye love me, keep my commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. 18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.” (Joh 14:15-18)
7. “He spread a cloud for a covering; and fire to give light in the night.” (Ps 105:39)

Amen and Amen  
God bless you.