



"The Path to Christian Maturity" (Exodus 13-17a) 2014
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13:1-7 Passover and The Feast of Unleavened Bread were inseparably linked. Once redeemed/delivered from Egypt, one naturally rids leaven from their lives.

13:8-13 it is very interesting to me the mention of redeeming every firstborn donkey, and especially if it is not redeemed, break its neck.

13:14-15 I cannot help but believe there is a message in the instruction to break the neck of an unredeemed donkey and Pharaoh's stubborn refusal to free the Israelites from the bondage and slavery of Egypt.

Prov.29:1 A man who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed – without remedy.

13:16 Regular firstborn/firstfruit offerings would be "like a sign on your hand and a symbol on your forehead." Verses 9 & 16 were the inspiration for Jews to later begin the practice of wearing phylacteries, small boxes containing parchment with Scriptures on them, held to the forehead or hand with leather straps. It originally sounded like a good idea, but became a source of spiritual pride (see Matthew 23:5).

13:17-18 Very interesting, they are "armed for battle," but they will have to learn to fight their battles "by faith."

13:19-22 Refer to Num.9:15-23.

14:1-9 These Egyptian chariots were the most modern military machinery of the day.

14:10-12 The first real test on their journey of faith. They were not yet one week out of Egypt, and they now wish they had never made the decision to leave!

14:13-14 Put yourself in this situation. It is very challenging when I consider it personally. I've got an army coming down upon me with the most sophisticated military machinery of the day, and I am told to "be still."

14:15-18 Be still did not really mean “don’t move.” It meant don’t do anything in your own power to resist. Just trust the Lord. Now he directs them to move toward the water. This is a step of faith, and obedience.

14:19-20 The angel of God is of course Christ. Other references?

14:21-30 WOW!

14:31 See I Cor.10:2; Rom.6:3-4.

15:1-18 Pick out key verses and read.

15:19-21 Everybody’s feeling good, everybody’s worshipping. But soon after this wonderful worship experience, another test comes their way.

15:22-24

15:25-26

15:27 No doubt they thoroughly enjoyed this oasis. But the Lord did not allow them to stay indefinitely at this oasis.

16:1 This is exactly one month after Passover and their deliverance from Egypt (Ex.12:18).

16:2-3 Can you imagine being Moses or Aaron? Being a pastor is a tough job!

They think of the food they ate in Egypt. They are hungry, and God led them to this place of hunger, because He knows they need to stop just feeding their fleshly appetites and develop a heavenly diet. All they have known for years is the food of Egypt. God has food for them from heaven itself!

16:4 This bread God will rain down represents not only the Word of God, but Jesus himself (see John 6:32-35; 1:14).

16:5-8 Note: Anytime we grumble against God-ordained authority we are grumbling against the Lord.

16:31 I used to say manna was like Frosted Flakes, but it was probably more like Golden Grahams.

17:1-7 Romans 5:8 but God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

I Cor.10:3-4

You are a stiff-necked people...Ex.32:9; 33:3; Deut.9:6, 13.

LESSONS:

- Christian leaders/pastors need our prayers, and our submission (Heb.13:17).
- Testing is a necessary part of the Christian life.
 - The path to maturity (James 1:2-4)
 - Reveals what is in our hearts (Deut.8:2)
 - Requires we walk by faith (Deut.8:3-4)
 - Means of Godly discipline (Deut.8:5)
- Heavenly diet essential for my journey of faith
 - Give us this day our daily bread
 - Psalm 119:9, 11, 105
- Some Christians never mature (Heb.5:11-6:2; I Cor.3:1-2; 10:5-10).
- Marks of maturity:
 - Rarely grumble and complain
 - Exhibit faith in even the most difficult challenges
 - Submissive to God-ordained authority
 - Not given to cravings of the flesh
 - Regular heavenly diet