

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS**  
**SEPTEMBER 25, 2024**  
**EXODUS 13:17-22**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. Prior to their leaving Egypt, God commanded all the firstborn males to be given to Him.
  - a) **EXODUS 13.1:** *“Consecrate to Me all the firstborn...it is mine”*
  - b) What were the firstborn sacrificed to do? (Lev. 3.5-8,11,12)
  - c) In anticipation of being replaced by the Levitical priesthood, the children were to be bought back according to the monetary value God placed on them. (cf. Lev. 27.1-7)
  - d) As unclean animals, donkeys could not be offered. (cf. Num. 18.15)
  - e) The consecration was to set before them a reminder. (Ex. 13.16)
2. **EXODUS 13.17-22:** The children of Israel leave Egypt. [Read]

**I. A CONCERN IS EXPRESSED**

- A. **EXODUS 13.17:** *“Then it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near”*
  1. The shortest route to the land of promise was along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea through the land of the Philistines. (cf. Gen. 21.33,34; Josh. 13.2,3)
  2. Yet God led them on a different route *“Lest perhaps the people change their minds”*
    - a) The Philistines were mostly known as people of war. (1 Sam. 4.1,2; 17.4)
    - b) **VERSE 17:** *“when they see war, and return to Egypt.”*
  3. **EXODUS 13.18:** *“So God led the people around by way of the wilderness”*
- B. Like Israel, there is a danger in wanting to go back into captivity.
  1. **1 PETER 2.20-22:** *“they are again entangled in them and overcome”*
  2. The difficulties of discipleship can discourage us. (Matt. 13.20,21)
  3. The book of Hebrews was written to Christians who wanted to give up.
    - a) **HEBREWS 10.23-25:** *“Let us hold fast...”* Assembling helped them remain faithful.
    - b) **HEBREWS 10.35,36:** They were about to throw it all away.

**II. A PROMISE IS FULFILLED**

- A. **EXODUS 13.19:** *“And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him”*
  1. This was in keeping with the oath that Joseph took from the children of Israel.
    - a) A prediction is made: *“God will surely visit you”* (Gen. 50.24; 15.13; Ex. 12.41)
    - b) A promise is requested: *“and you shall carry up my bones”* (Gen. 50.25)
  2. You will read about the bones of Joseph in three places.
    - a) **EXODUS 13.19:** *“for he had placed the children of Israel under solemn oath”*
    - b) **JOSHUA 24.32:** They buried the bones of Joseph at Shechem. (cf. Josh. 21.21)
    - c) **HEBREWS 11.22:** *“By faith Joseph, when he was dying...”*
- B. Like Israel, we have a promise of going home.
  1. Do you have a funeral plan?
    - a) The patriarchs had planned for their death. (Gen. 23.3,4; 27.2-4; 49.29)
    - b) Jesus had funeral plans. (Isa. 53.9)
  2. We will all arrive at home together. (Heb. 11.13-16; 1 Thess. 4.13-18)

**III. A PRESENCE IS FELT**

- A. **EXODUS 13.20:** *“So they took their journey from Succoth and camped in Etham at the edge of the wilderness.”* (cf. Ex. 12.37). The place of rendezvous.
- B. **EXODUS 13.21,22:** The presence of God was always with them.
  1. Why did God go with Israel in the pillar of cloud and fire? (v. 21)
  2. **EXODUS 13.22:** *“He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people.”* He was always with them.
  3. Like with Israel, God is always with us. (Matt. 28.20; Heb. 13.6)