

The Death of the Firstborn

Exodus 11:1-10; 12:29-42

8 August 2010

I. Why the firstborn?

- A. The firstborn: blessing, privilege, responsibility, representation. (13:1-2, 11-16; see also Deuteronomy 21:17)
- B. For these reasons, God says that the firstborn belong to him! (Exodus 13:1-2, 11-16; 22:29-30; 34:19-20; Leviticus 27:26-27; Numbers 3:11-13, 30-51; 18:8, 12-18; Deuteronomy 12:6, 17; 14:22ff.; 21:15-17 as opposed to Deuteronomy 12:31; Ezekiel 20:26; Jeremiah 7:31; 19:5)
- C. God has already said, "Israel is my firstborn son," (Exodus 4:22-23)
- D. The status of "firstborn" is Providential (Deuteronomy 21:17; 1 Timothy 2:13)
 - i. The firstborn of Egypt represent the whole nation of Egypt.
 - ii. The firstborn of Israel represent the whole nation of Israel.
 - iii. Judgment or redemption for the whole nation.

II. The death of the firstborn

- A. The Lord's instructions to Moses (chapters 11-12)
- B. Moses' warning to Pharaoh (11:1-10; see Romans 8:33)
- C. Fulfillment (12:29-32)
- D. Exodus and plunder (12:33-41; see 1:11)
- E. "This was a night of watching by the Lord" (12:42; see Psalm 80:1)

III. The death of the Firstborn

- A. God is just and man is in trouble
- B. Are we fighting a war that cannot be won?
- C. Jesus Christ, the Firstborn
 - i. He is the Firstborn of all creation (Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:6)
 - ii. but the First became last (Mark 9:35) and humbled himself to die on a cross (Philippians 2:8)
 - iii. so that he could become the Firstborn of the dead in his resurrection (Colossians 1:18; 1 Corinthians 15:20; Revelation 1:5)
 - iv. and become the Firstborn among all God's redeemed people, Jew and Gentile (Romans 8:29; Hebrews 12:22-3; James 1:18; Revelation 14:4)
- D. Justice and unspeakable mercy (see 1 Peter 2:9)