

~FIRSTBORN - FIRSTLING (422)

.. Yehowah Refers To David My Servant As Firstborn

- The firstborn is primarily the oldest son of a father, rather than the firstborn of the mother, the **beginning of the father's generative power**.
- For he should recognize as the firstborn the hated ones son by giving him two parts in everything he is found to have, because that one is the beginning of his generative power. The right of the firstborn's position belongs to him. (**Deuteronomy 21:17**)
- Also, the initial male offspring of animals, at times designated as **firstlings**.
- But as for Abel, he too brought some **firstlings** of his flock, even their fatty pieces. Now while Yehowah was looking with favor upon Abel and his offering. (**Genesis 4:4**)
- From earliest times the **firstborn** son held an honored position in the family and was the one who succeeded to the headship of the household. He **inherited a double portion of the fathers property**.
- For he should recognize as the **firstborn** the hated ones son by giving him two parts in everything he is found to have, because that one is the beginning of his generative power. The right of the **firstborns** position belongs to him. (**Deuteronomy 21:17**)
- Reuben was seated by Joseph at a meal according to his right as **firstborn**.
- And they were seated before him, the **firstborn** according to his right as **firstborn** and the youngest according to his youngness, and the men kept looking at one another in amazement. (**Genesis 43:33**)
- But the Bible does not always honor the **firstborn** by listing sons according to birth. The first place is often given to the most prominent or faithful of the sons rather than to the **firstborn**.
- In time Noah became father to three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth. (**Genesis 6:10**)

- The sons of Abraham were Isaac and Ishmael. (**1 Chronicles 1:28**)
- And Terah lived on for seventy years, after which he became father to Abram, Nahor and Haran. (**Genesis 11:26**)
- And the days of Terah came to be two hundred and five years. Then Terah died in Haran. (**Genesis 11:32**)
- At that Abram went just as Yehowah had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he went out from Haran. (**Genesis 12:4**)

See Also BIRTHRIGHT
See Also INHERITANCE

- The **firstborn** came into considerable prominence at the time that Yehowah delivered his people from slavery in Egypt. Among the Egyptians, the **firstborn** were dedicated as sacred to the sun-god Amon-Ra, the supposed preserver of all the **firstborn**.
- The tenth plague that Yehowah brought upon the Egyptians served to discredit this god and showed up his inability to protect the **firstborn**.
- By obeying God's instructions concerning the slaying of a lamb and the splashing of its blood on the doorposts and upper part of the doorway of their houses, the Israelites did not lose their **firstborn** in death, whereas all the **firstborn** of the Egyptians, of both man and beast, were slain.
- Promptly Moses called all the older men of Israel and said to them; Draw out and take for yourselves small cattle according to your families, and slaughter the Passover victim. (**Exodus 12:21**)
- And you must take a bunch of hyssop and dip it into the blood in a basin and strike upon the upper part of the doorway and upon the two doorposts some of the blood that is in the basin, and none of you should go out of the entrance of his house until morning. (**Exodus 12:22**)
- Then when Yehowah does pass through to plague the Egyptians and does see the blood upon the upper part of the doorway and

upon the two doorposts, Yehowah will certainly pass over the entrance, and he will not allow the ruination to enter into your houses to plague you. (**Exodus 12:23**)

- Subsequently the sons of Israel went and did just as Yehowah had commanded Moses and Aaron. They did just so. (**Exodus 12:28**)
- And it came about that at midnight Yehowah struck every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the **firstborn** of Pharaoh sitting on his throne to the **firstborn** of the captive who was in the prison hole, and every **firstborn** of beast. (**Exodus 12:29**)
- Evidently the **firstborn** son of each household is meant in most cases and not the head of the household, even though he may have been a **firstborn**. Pharaoh himself was probably a **firstborn** and yet his life was not taken.
- However, it may be that not every Egyptian household had a literal firstborn son, the married couple being childless or the firstborn son having already died, and in view of the statement at;
- Then Pharaoh got up at night, he and all his servants and all other Egyptians, and there began arising a great outcry among the Egyptians, because there was not a house where there was not one dead. (**Exodus 12:30**)
- There was not a house where there was not one dead, the destruction could have included the chief one in the house occupying the **position** of **firstborn**.
- Since the **firstborn** sons among the Israelites were those in line to become the heads of the various households, they represented the entire nation. Yehowah, in fact, referred to the whole nation as his **firstborn**, it being his **firstborn** nation because of the Abrahamic covenant.
- And you must say to Pharaoh; This is what Yehowah has said; Israel is my son, my firstborn. (**Exodus 4:22**)
- In view of his having preserved their lives, Yehowah commanded that, every male firstborn that opens each womb among the sons of Israel, among men and beasts, be sanctified to him.

- Sanctify to me every male firstborn that opens each womb among the sons of Israel, among men and beasts. It is mine. (**Exodus 13:2**)
- Thus, the **firstborn** sons were devoted to God.
- Later Yehowah took the male Levites, evidently aside from the 300 Levite **firstborn**.
- Of Gershon there were the family of the Libnites and the family of the Shimeites. These were the families of the Gershonites. (**Numbers 3:21**)
- Their registered ones were by number of all males from a month old upward. Their registered ones were seven thousand five hundred. (**Numbers 3:22**)
- And of Kohath there were the family of the Amramites and the family of the Izharites and the family of the Hebronites and the family of the Uzzielites. These were the families of the Kohathites. (**Numbers 3:27**)
- Among the number of all the males from a month old upward there were eight thousand six hundred, taking care of the obligation to the holy place. (**Numbers 3:28**)
- Of Merari there were the family of the Mahlites and the family of the Mushites. These were the families of Merari. (**Numbers 3:33**)
- And their registered ones by the number of all the males from a month old upward were six thousand two hundred. (**Numbers 3:34**)
- All the registered ones of the Levites whom Moses and Aaron registered at the order of Yehowah by their families, all the males from a month old upward, were twenty-two thousand. (**Numbers 3:39**)
- In place of the **firstborn** sons of Israel, from those one month old and upward. A ransom price of five shekels (\$11) had to be paid to Aaron and his sons for each of the 273 in excess of the Levites. Also, Yehowah took the domestic animals of the Levites in place of the firstborn domestic animals of the other tribes.

- Then Yehowah said to Moses; Register all the **firstborn** males of the sons of Israel from a month old upward, and take the number of their names. (**Numbers 3:40**)
- And you must take the Levites for me, I am Yehowah, in place of all the **firstborn** among the sons of Israel, and the domestic animals of the Levites in place of all the **firstborn** among the domestic animals of the sons of Israel. (**Numbers 3:41**)
- And Moses proceeded, just as Yehowah had commanded him, to register all the **firstborn** among the sons of Israel. (**Numbers 3:42**)
- And all the **firstborn** males by the number of the names from a month old upward of their registered ones came to be twenty-two thousand two hundred and seventy-three. (**Numbers 3:43**)
- And Yehowah continued to speak to Moses, saying; (**Numbers 3:44**)
- Take the Levites in place of all the **firstborn** among the sons of Israel, and the domestic animals of the Levites in place of their domestic animals, and the Levites must become mine. I am Yehowah. (**Numbers 3:45**)
- And as the ransom price of the two hundred and seventy-three from the **firstborn** of the sons of Israel, who are in excess of the Levites. (**Numbers 3:46**)
- You must take five shekels for each individual. In the shekel of the holy place you should take it. A shekel is twenty gerahs. (**Numbers 3:47**)
- And you must give the money to Aaron and his sons as the ransom price of those who are in excess of them. (**Numbers 3:48**)
- From that time forward, a **firstborn** son was to be presented to Yehowah at the tabernacle or temple after the period of the mothers uncleanness and be redeemed by the payment of the estimated value for those from a month up to five years old, five silver shekels by the shekel of the holy place.
- And Yehowah went on to speak to Moses, saying; (**Leviticus 12:1**)

- **Speak to the sons of Israel, saying; In case a woman conceives seed and does bear a male, she must be unclean seven days, as in the days of the impurity when she is menstruating she will be unclean. (Leviticus 12:2)**
- **And on the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin will be circumcised. (Leviticus 12:3)**
- **And if the age is from a month old up to five years old, the estimated value of the male must then become five shekels of silver and for the female the estimated value must be three shekels of silver. (Leviticus 27:6)**
- **Everything opening the womb, of every sort of flesh, which they will present to Yehowah, among man and among beast, should become yours. However, you should without fail redeem the firstborn of mankind, and the firstborn of the unclean beast you should redeem. (Numbers 18:15)**
- **And with a redemption price for it from a month old onward you should redeem it, by the estimated value, five silver shekels by the shekel of the holy place. It is twenty gerahs. (Numbers 18:16)**
- **The firstborn males of clean animals, such as the bull, lamb, or goat, were not to be redeemed. Such a bull was not to be worked, nor was the lamb to be sheared. Instead, they were to be presented to Yehowah as a sacrifice at the tabernacle or temple on the eighth day after birth.**
- **The way you are to do with your bull and your sheep is this; Seven days it will continue with its mother. On the eighth day you are to give it to me. (Exodus 22:30)**
- **Only the firstborn bull or firstborn male lamb or firstborn goat you should not redeem. They are something holy. Their blood you should sprinkle upon the altar, and their fat you should make smoke as an offering made by fire for a restful odor to Yehowah. (Numbers 18:17)**
- **Every male firstborn that will be born in your herd and in your flock you should sanctify to Yehowah your God. You must do no service with the firstborn of your bull, nor shear the firstborn of**

your flock. (**Deuteronomy 15:19**)

- Before Yehowah your God you should eat it year by year in the place that Yehowah will choose, you and your household. (**Deuteronomy 15:20**)
- If, however, the animal had a bad defect, it was not to be sacrificed to Yehowah but was to be eaten at ones place of dwelling.
- And in case there should prove to be in it a defect, being lame or blind, any bad defect, you must not sacrifice it to Yehowah your God. (**Deuteronomy 15:21**)
- Inside your gates you should eat it, the unclean one and the clean one together, like the gazelle and like the stag. (**Deuteronomy 15:22**)
- Only its blood you must not eat. Upon the earth you should pour it out as water. (**Deuteronomy 15:23**)
- The **firstborn** of an ass, an unclean animal, could not be presented as a sacrifice and, therefore, was to be redeemed, or bought back, by substituting a sheep in its place. Otherwise, its neck was to be broken, since it belonged to Yehowah and was not to be used by man.
- Then you must devote everyone that opens the womb to Yehowah, and every **firstling**, the young of a beast, which will come to be yours. The males belong to Yehowah. (**Exodus 13:12**)
- And every **firstling** ass you are to redeem with a sheep, and if you will not redeem it, then you must break its neck. And every **firstborn** of man among your sons you are to redeem. (**Exodus 13:13**)
- Everything that **first** opens the womb is mine, and, as regards all your livestock, the male **firstling** of bull and of sheep. (**Exodus 34:19**)
- And the **firstling** of an ass you are to redeem with a sheep. But if you will not redeem it, then you must break its neck. Every firstborn of your sons you are to redeem. And they must not appear before me empty-handed. (**Exodus 34:20**)

- **However,**
- **And if it is among the unclean beasts and he must redeem it according to the estimated value, he must then give a fifth of it in addition to it. But if it should not be bought back, it must then be sold according to the estimated value. (Leviticus 27:27)**
- **Some commentators view this text as a modification of the regulation concerning the redeeming of an ass. Apparently, though;**
- **And if it is among the unclean beasts and he must redeem it according to the estimated value, he must then give a fifth of it in addition to it. But if it should not be bought back, it must then be sold according to the estimated value. (Leviticus 27:27)**
- **It deals with a different matter. Instead of referring to an unclean animal, such as an ass, the words if it is among the unclean beasts may denote an animal that was unclean in the sense of being unfit for sacrifice because of being blemished.**

· Yehowah Refers To David My Servant As Firstborn

- **In Psalms 89 Yehowah refers to **David my servant** and reviews the covenant for the kingdom that was made with him. In the midst of this is the statement;**
- **I have found David my servant. With my holy oil I have anointed him. (Psalms 89:20)**
- **Also, I myself shall place him as **firstborn**, the most high of the kings of the earth. (Psalms 89:27)**
- **David was not a **firstborn** son.**
- **Jesse, in turn, became father to his **firstborn** Eliab, and Abinadab the second, and Shimea the third. (1 Chronicles 2:13)**
- **Nethanel the fourth, Raddai the fifth. (1 Chronicles 2:14)**
- **Ozem the sixth, David the seventh. (1 Chronicles 2:15)**
- **So it seems that Yehowah was referring prophetically to the one foreshadowed by David, God's own **firstborn** Son in heaven upon whom He confers kingship more exalted than that of any human ruler.**

- And I myself, Yehowah, will become their God, and my servant David a chieftain in the midst of them. I myself, Yehowah, have spoken. (**Ezekiel 34:24**)
- Where **Messiah** is spoken of as my servant David.
- Jesus Christ is shown to be the **firstborn** of all creation as well as the **firstborn** from the dead, not merely most distinguished in relation to those created or those resurrected but the **first** one actually created and the first raised from the dead to endless life.
- He is the image of the invisible God, the **firstborn** of all creation. (**Colossians 1:15**)
- And he is the head of the body, the congregation. He is the beginning, the **firstborn** from the dead, that he might become the one who is first in all things. (**Colossians 1:18**)
- And from Jesus Christ, the Faithful Witness, The **Firstborn** from the dead, and, The Ruler of the kings of the earth. To him that loves us and that loosed us from our sins by means of his own blood. (**Revelation 1:5**)
- And to the angel of the congregation in Laodicea write. These are the things that the Amen says, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation by God. (**Revelation 3:14**)
- On earth he was the firstborn child of Mary and was presented at the temple in accordance with Yehowah's law.
- And she gave birth to her son, the **firstborn**, and she bound him with cloth bands and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the lodging room. (**Luke 2:7**)
- Also, when the days for purifying them according to the Law of Moses came to the full, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to Yehowah. (**Luke 2:22**)
- Just as it is written in Yehowah's Law: Every male **opening a womb** must be called holy to Yehowah. (**Luke 2:23**)
- The apostle Paul speaks of the followers of Jesus Christ who have been enrolled in the heavens as the congregation of the **firstborn**, the

first ones accepted by God as sons on the basis of their faith in Jesus sacrifice and the first of Christ's followers to be resurrected with no need to die again.

- In general assembly, and the congregation of the firstborn who have been enrolled in the heavens, and God the Judge of all, and the spiritual lives of righteous ones who have been made perfect. (**Hebrews 12:23**)
- It will eat the pieces of his skin. The **firstborn** of death will eat his limbs. (**Job 18:13**)
- The expression **firstborn** of death is used to denote the most deadly of diseases.