

# | TOGETHER |

WE PRAY

April 2023

*A guide for interceding for the advance of the gospel*

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“IT WILL BE LIKE A SIGN ON YOUR HAND AND A SYMBOL ON YOUR FOREHEAD THAT THE LORD BROUGHT US OUT.”

Exodus 13:16

“The Lord said to Moses, ‘Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether human or animal.’...’Redeem every firstborn among your sons. In days to come, when your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ say to him, ‘With a mighty hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed the firstborn of both people and animals in Egypt. This is why I sacrifice to the Lord the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my firstborn sons.’ And it will be like a sign on your hand and a symbol on your forehead that the Lord brought us out of Egypt with his mighty hand.”  
Exodus 13:1-2,13-16



Scan for a visual  
review of Exodus

This month of April we remember the life giving sacrifice and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. One of the beautiful things about our God is how he desires to reveal Himself to us and through us. From our place in His timeline, we reflect back on His sacrifice, yet even those who preceded His arrival were given signs that pointed forward to His coming. The people of Israel in the Old Testament were a living object lesson to whom and through whom God demonstrated His love, faithfulness, and His plan for redemption. By His grace, and the blood covering their doorposts, the firstborn of Israel were spared from death, and the entire nation was freed from their life of bondage!

The instruction here in Exodus 13 for Israel to consecrate their firstborn sons and redeem them from the Lord served as a “sign and symbol” of what God had done for them. He spared their lives and brought them out into a new life of freedom, breaking off their chains of slavery. And just as it was a reminder of what God had done for His people, it also pointed into the future to what God would do to break off the chains of slavery and death for the entire world. The sign and symbol of redeeming the firstborn son was not without cost. It was a price that God Himself paid. While Israel reaped the benefits of God’s redeeming work, it came through sacrifice.

While we reap the benefits of salvation and a new life of freedom, this too, came through sacrifice. The sacrifice of our God and Father whose son was not spared. It was Jesus’ life that was given, and His blood that poured out for us to attain freedom from bondage. We must always remember this sign that was given us - the sign of self-sacrificing service for God’s glory and for the benefit of those around us. As Jesus said in Mark 10, “the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

May we too, live a life of service in the Name of our Savior Jesus, and may this be a sign and symbol of what God has done for us, that when people ask us, “What does this mean?” we can point to His saving work and the hope and salvation that is now accessible to all who are willing.

### Contemplative Listening & Prayer

- How has Jesus' work impacted my life, personally?
- Where is He inviting me to serve in His Name?
- Are the signs and symbols of God’s work evident in how the Church is engaging the world?  
Where are there incongruencies?
- Pray for the power for the Holy Spirit to pervade society with revelation of the need for Jesus, as well as for God to raise up His people in these spheres to lead them to Him.

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