

Exodus 13:1-2

<https://thebiblesays.com/commentary/exod/exod-13/exodus-131-2/>

The Lord commands Israel to set apart the firstborn of all people and animals to His service.

In chapter 12, *the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, Sanctify to Me every firstborn, the first offspring of every womb among the sons of Israel, both of man and beast.* The idea behind the word “sanctify” (Heb. piel of *qadesh*) is “to set apart for a special purpose,” “declare holy,” or “dedicate for God’s use only.” The “firstborn” (male only – see verse 12) belonged to the LORD and to Him only.

To make it more explicit, the firstborn was *the first offspring of every womb* (lit. “that which opens the womb”). It included animal life as well. The LORD declared that all firstborn males of Israel and animals *belongs to Me*. In other words, those whom the LORD delivers must be set apart to the LORD for His service.

Biblical Text:

¹Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²“Sanctify to Me every firstborn, the first offspring of every womb among the sons of Israel, both of man and beast; it belongs to Me.”