

Exodus
May 20, 2007
Chapter 13

I. Phylacteries

While there is no specific method for constructing a phylactery, they were typically made in four columns:

Column 1

Ex 13:1-10

13:1 The LORD said to Moses, **2** "Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether man or animal." **3** Then Moses said to the people, "Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the LORD brought you out of it with a mighty hand. Eat nothing containing yeast. **4** Today, in the month of Abib, you are leaving. **5** When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites and Jebusites — the land he swore to your forefathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey — you are to observe this ceremony in this month: **6** For seven days eat bread made without yeast and on the seventh day hold a festival to the LORD. **7** Eat unleavened bread during those seven days; nothing with yeast in it is to be seen among you, nor shall any yeast be seen anywhere within your borders. **8** On that day tell your son, 'I do this because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.' **9** This observance will be for you like a sign on your hand and a reminder on your forehead that the law of the LORD is to be on your lips. For the LORD brought you out of Egypt with his mighty hand. **10** You must keep this ordinance at the appointed time year after year.

NIV

- Verse 2 The LORD has destroyed the firstborn of Egypt. He is therefore due the firstborn of Israel. Later, we will see that He redeems the Levites with these firstborn. Consecration means separation; those consecrated were suppose to be separated from the world and joined with God.
- Verse 2 The mention of the firstborn, that is the next generation, is a point of departure for the LORD to recall the Passover and relate it to all future generations, not just the immediate or next one.
- Verse 3 The Hebrew is very graphic saying that they came out of a “house of slaves,” not “land of slavery.”
- Verse 9 The obvious purpose, whether it is be metaphorical or actual, is that we are not to forget what happened; it is to be on our lips, something that we discuss.

Column 2

Ex 13:11-16

11 "After the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites and gives it to you, as he promised on oath to you and your forefathers, **12** you are to give over to the LORD the first

offspring of every womb. All the firstborn males of your livestock belong to the LORD. 13 Redeem with a lamb every firstborn donkey, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem every firstborn among your sons.

14 "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. 15 When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed every firstborn in Egypt, both man and animal. This is why I sacrifice to the LORD the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my firstborn sons.' 16 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." NIV

Column 3 (also called the great shema)

Deut 6:4-9

4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

NIV

Column 4

Deut 11:13-21

13 So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today — to love the LORD your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul — 14 then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and oil. 15 I will provide grass in the fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied.

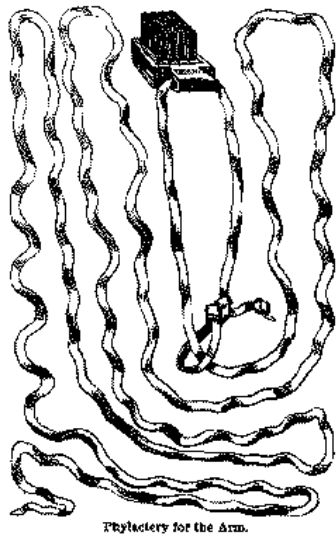
16 Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them. 17 Then the LORD's anger will burn against you, and he will shut the heavens so that it will not rain and the ground will yield no produce, and you will soon perish from the good land the LORD is giving you. 18 Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 19 Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 20 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, 21 so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth. NIV

Passage from NT showing misuse of phylacteries:

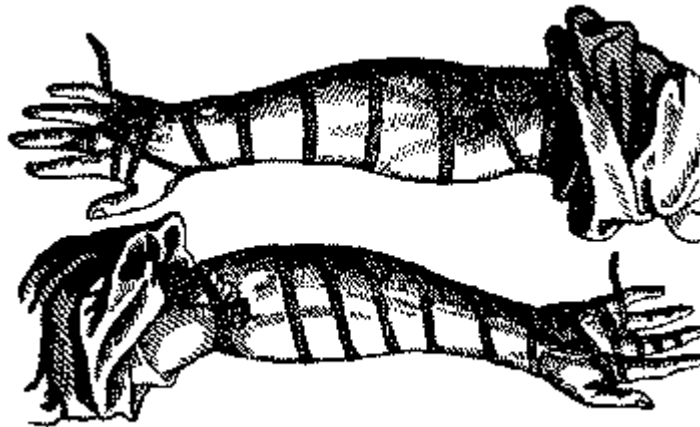
Matt 23:5

5 "Everything they do is done for men to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; NIV

It is the unanimous voice of Jewish tradition that the phylacteries are enjoined in Ex 13:9,16; Deut 6:8; 11:18.



Phylactery for the Arm.



Phylactery on the Arm.

What are the purposes of Phylacteries?

The clear purpose of the phylacteries and of these passages is to keep God and His power before us in ways so that we cannot ignore Him. The point is to help us to keep up our faith in God, and through our demonstration of faith, to help us teach our children better so that they can also demonstrate their faith in the future.

II. Leaving Egypt

Ex 13:17-18

17 When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." **18** So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt armed for battle. NIV

Verse 17 Could God have helped the Israelites beat the Philistines? Of course, but He knew that they were weak in many, many ways, and not just militarily. The 40 years in the wilderness demonstrates this well.

Verse 17 The point concerns whether the Israelites would drop everything to go back to Egypt at the first portents of problems. Indeed, within a few months, they would want to do so, even with the greater temporal and physical space between them and Egypt.

Verse 18 "Armed for battle" is really "organized by fifties."

Verse 18 The Red Sea is the traditional translation/interpretation for what translates literally as being the "sea of rushes" or "sea of reeds." Almost every body of water in or near to the Egypt has been proposed to be it.

III. Connection with the Past

Ex 13:19

19 Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the sons of Israel swear an oath. He had said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place." NIV

The quote is directly from Gen 50:24-26:

24 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die. But God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the land he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." **25** And Joseph made the sons of Israel swear an oath and said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up from this place."

26 So Joseph died at the age of a hundred and ten. And after they embalmed him, he was placed in a coffin in Egypt.

NIV

IV. God's Leading

Ex 13:20-22

20 After leaving Succoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. **21** By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. **22** Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

NIV

Verse 21 This verse might mean that they were traveling a part of the day and a part of the night, perhaps to avoid the intensity of mid-day sun.

Verse 15 What does cut off mean? Cut off from God's benefits to Israel now and eternally. Obviously, if the LORD asks us to do something, and we do not do it, then we are at fault and deserve consequences.

Verse 17 Strangely, "visions" imply an army, or at least some kind of organization as one.

V. How Big is Your God?

At the beginning of this class, we talked about how big is your God. The Israelites have seen the LORD totally defeat the Egyptians in many ways. How has this affected their faith? Are they willing to trust in God, even when they see the cloud or pillar of fire leading them?

What has to happen for each of us to trust more in God? What does He have to do for us to set the purpose of our hearts to do what He wants us to do? What do we have to do?