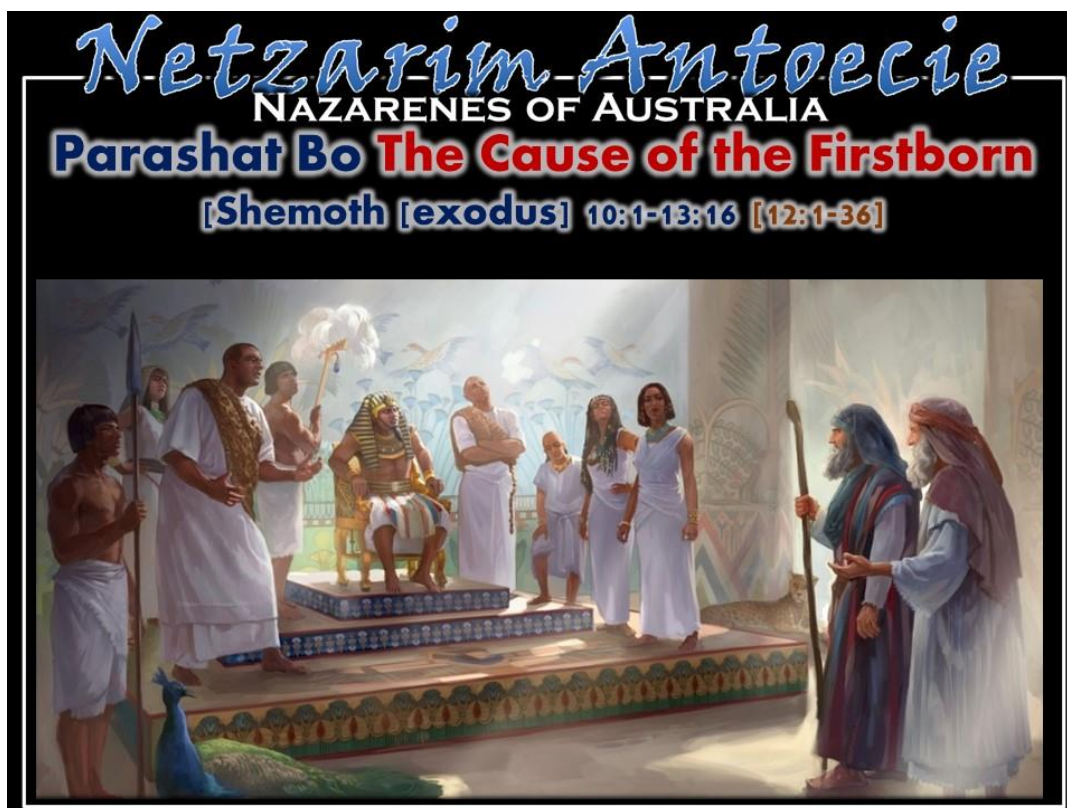


Parashat Bo- The Cause of the Firstborn

Torah Portion: **Shemoth [Exodus] 10:1-13:16** [Shemoth [Exodus] 12:1-36]



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The Pesach [Passover] Instructions Given

Shemoth [Exodus] 12: 1 And יהוה spoke to Mosheh and to Aharon in the land of Mitsrayim, saying, 2 "This month is the beginning of months for you, it is the first month of the year for you. 3 "Speak to all the congregation of Yisra'el, saying, 'On the tenth day of this month each one of them is to take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. 4 'And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next to his house take it according to the number of the beings, according to each man's need you make your count for the lamb. 5 'Let the lamb be a perfect one, a year old male. Take it from the sheep or from the goats. 6 'And you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then all the assembly of the congregation of Yisra'el shall kill it between the twilights. 7 'And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. 8 'And they shall eat the flesh on that night, roasted in fire – with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. 9 'Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire, its head with its legs and its inward parts. 10 'And do not leave of it until morning and what remains of it until morning you are to burn with fire. 11 'And this is how you eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the Passover of יהוה.

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The Pesach [Passover] Instructions Given

12 'And I shall pass through the land of Mitsrayim on that night and shall smite all the first-born in the land of Mitsrayim, both man and beast. And on all the mighty ones of Mitsrayim I shall execute judgment. I am יהוה. 13 'And the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I shall pass over you and let the plague not come on you to destroy you when I smite the land of Mitsrayim.

14 'And this day shall become to you a remembrance. And you shall observe it as a festival to יהוה throughout your generations – observe it as a festival, an everlasting law. 15 'Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. Indeed, on the first day you cause leaven to cease from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that being shall be cut off from Yisra'el. 16 'And on the first day is a set-apart [holy] gathering and on the seventh day you have a set-apart [holy] gathering. No work at all is done on them, only that which is eaten by every being, that alone is prepared by you. 17 'And you shall guard the Festival of Unleavened Bread, for on this same day I brought your divisions out of the land of Mitsrayim. And you shall guard this day throughout your generations, an everlasting law. 18 'In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, in the evening, you shall eat unleavened bread until the twenty-first day of the month in the evening.

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The Lambs Blood Applied To the Doorposts & Lintels

19 'For seven days no leaven is to be found in your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, that same being shall be cut off from the congregation of Yisra'el, whether sojourner or native of the land. 20 'Do not eat that which is leavened – in all your dwellings you are to eat unleavened bread.' 21 And Mosheh called for all the elders of Yisra'el and said to them, "Go out and take lambs for yourselves according to your clans and slaughter the Passover lamb. 22 "And you shall take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin and you, none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. 23 "And יהוה shall pass on to smite the Mitsrites and shall see the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts and HWHY shall pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to smite you. 24 "And you shall guard this word as a law for you and your sons, forever. 25 "And it shall be, when you come to the land which יהוה gives you, as He promised, that you shall guard this service. 26 "And it shall be, when your children say to you, 'What does this service mean to you?' 27 then you shall say, 'It is the Passover slaughtering of יהוה, who passed over the houses of the children of Yisra'el in Mitsrayim when He smote the Mitsrites and delivered our households.' " And the people bowed their heads and worshipped. 28 And the children of Yisra'el went away and did so – as יהוה had commanded Mosheh and Aharon, so they did.

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The First-Born Of Mitsrayim [Egypt] All Die

29 And it came to be at midnight that יהוה smote all the first-born in the land of Mitsrayim, from the first-born of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the first-born of the captive who was in the dungeon and all the first-born of livestock. 30 And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Mitsrites. And there was a great cry in Mitsrayim, for there was not a house where there was not a dead one. 31 Then he called for Mosheh and Aharon by night and said, "Arise, go out from the midst of my people, both you and the children of Yisra'el. And go, serve יהוה as you have said. 32 "Take both your flocks and your herds, as you have said and go. Then you shall bless me too." 33 And the Mitsrites urged the people, to hasten to send them away out of the land. For they said, "We are all dying!" 34 And the people took their dough before it was leavened, having their kneading bowls bound up in their garments on their shoulders. 35 And the children of Yisra'el had done according to the word of Mosheh and they had asked from the Mitsrites objects of silver and objects of gold and garments. 36 And יהוה gave the people favour in the eyes of the Mitsrites, so that they gave them what they asked, and they plundered the Mitsrites.

Introduction: We found from last week that the plagues that Mitsrayim went through had a teaching agenda that **Mitsrayim** [Egypt] & the whole known World would come to see that Yahweh was the only true Elohim. For **Pharaoh** to experience this we found the Hebrew word often used was not hardened which is only used when Pharaoh personally made the decision but when YHWH influenced him the word used was that YHWH **strengthened** Pharaoh's heart giving him courage in defying YHWH. From all this we were taught that YHWH never wanted to beat anyone into submission but rather to cause them to see the absolute clear truth. This is truly reflected in the plagues that can be seen as opposing the various Elohim of Mitsrayim in the slide showing the belief in these Deities.



The Events of our Torah:

1. The servants of Pharaoh beg him to concede and the 8th plague being that of locusts ensues since He insists on keeping the children hostage.
2. Pharaoh reneges again after the locusts are removed and the Plague of frightful darkness happens.
3. Pharaoh now releases Yisrael but requires the cattle to remain & threatens Mosheh who pronounces the final Plague.
4. Mosheh now gives Elohim's instructions for the beginning of Months & the laws regarding the Pesach Lamb [the **Passover**] to be remembered for all generations.
5. On the night of the 14th at midnight a great cry went out over Mitsrayim as all first-born die.
6. Pharaoh then drives out all Yisrael from Mitsrayim [Egypt] on the 15th of the month Avib. They then leave with much wealth & provisions taken from the terrified Mitsrites.
7. Finally, we conclude with various mitsvot [**commandments**] relating to Pesach & redeeming the First-born and this great remembrance as a sign.

It is with great reverence that we remember these events, but surely an even greater event to remember is when **Yahusha [Yeshua]** came not to judge the world but to reveal the glorious truth of YHWH.

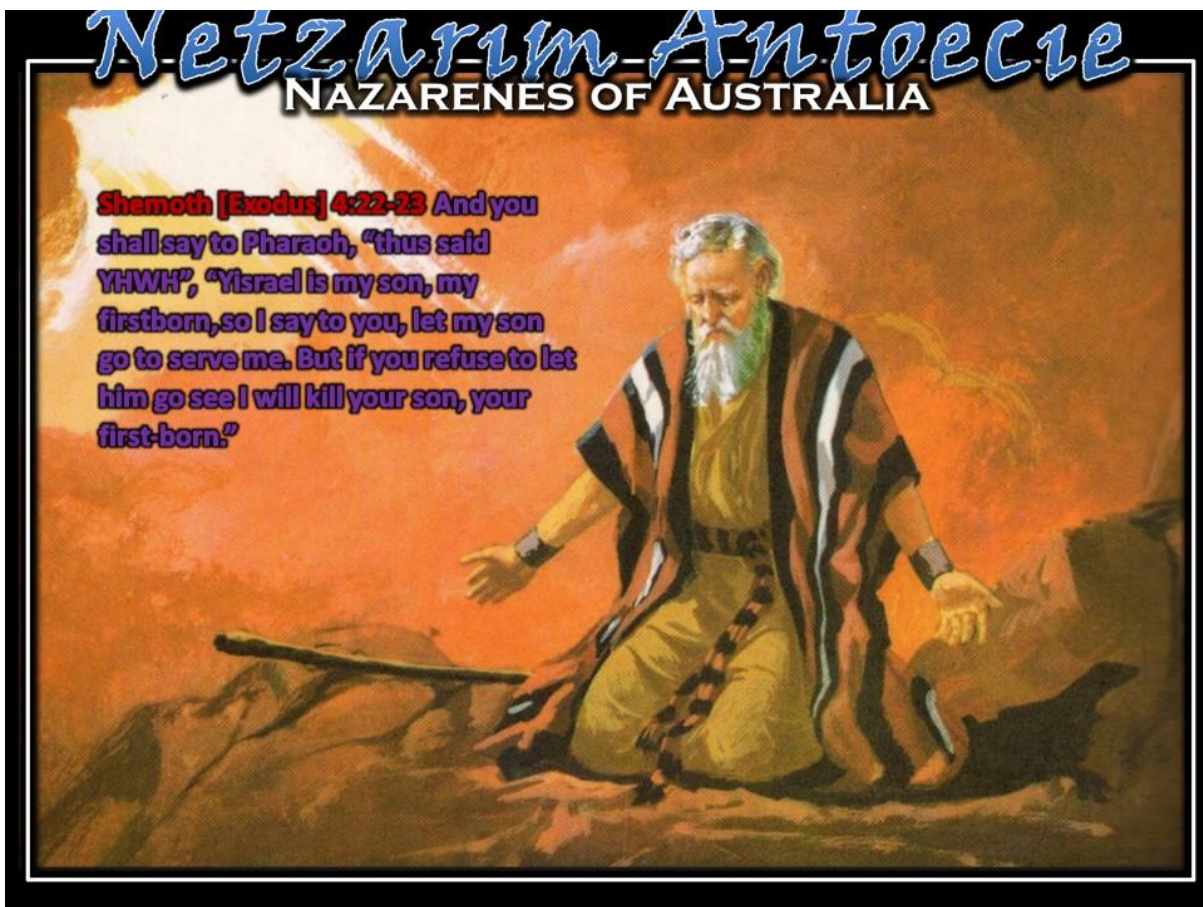


It was indeed Satan who wanted Yeshua to demonstrate his power as we read when He was tempted in the wilderness. This, however, was not in the plan & purpose of Elohim so Yeshua did the unexpected,

“he sacrificed Himself & died for all our sins- that we might see His Glorious plan through the eyes of the Most High.”

Preparing for the 10th Plague

Even before we look at that let me remind you of the words given by YHWH to Mosheh even before he began his appeal to Pharaoh:



Shemoth [Exodus] 4:22-23 And you shall say to Pharaoh, “thus said YHWH”, “Yisrael is my

son, my firstborn, so I say to you, let my son go to serve me. But if you refuse to let him go see I will kill your son, your first-born.”

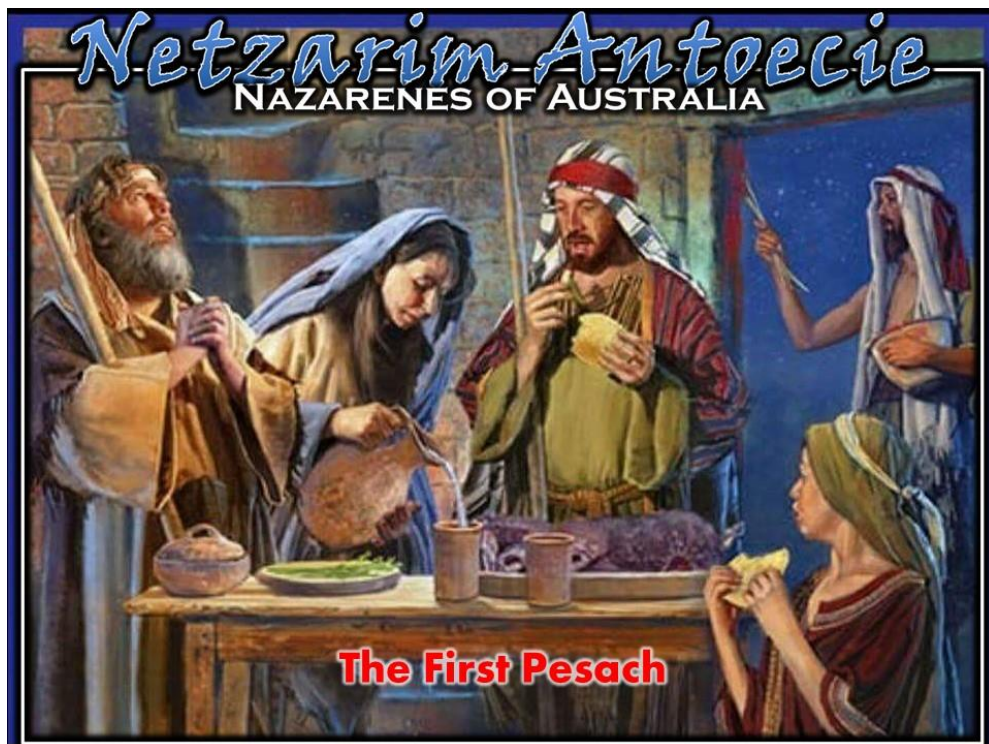
It is at this time that Mosheh gives to Yisrael all the instructions of YHWH relating to what would later be known & repeated for all generations as the Passover.



We might not realize it, but Passover falls on the month considered in Paganism to fall under **Aries**- the **Ram**:



Thus, by killing the Lamb & covering the lintels with its blood Yisrael would in fact be a direct affront to the Pagan elohim whose strength was believed to be strongest at the full moon about the time of **Passover**.



So significant was this Pesach that it would lead to the release of Yahweh's firstborn from affliction and that YHWH would rearrange the Calendar for all time to begin with this month the month of **Aviv** or **Nissan** in the modern Calendar which today has been thought to be a lunar calendar, though we read this in:



Shemoth (Exodus) 12:1 YHWH spoke to Mosheh and to Aharon in the land of Mitsrayim saying: **2** This month shall be the head of the months for you. It shall be the first of the months of the Year for you.

We also read all the clear instructions regarding the **Pesach** (Passover) as detailed very precisely:

- . One lamb is taken for one extended family on the 10th day of the month.
- . An unblemished male lamb in its 1st year should be chosen from either sheep or goats.
- . The Lamb should be held until the 14th & then inspected and then be slaughtered.
- . Its blood is to be put on the lintels of the two doorposts.
- . On that night they are to eat the meat roasted with its head, legs & innards together with **Matzot** (unleavened Bread) & bitter herbs.
- . None is to be left till morning & remainder burnt with fire or buried.
- . To Eat it wearing belt & sandals with staff in hand ready for travel.
- . All generations shall celebrate it as an eternal statute as it is a memorial.
- . 7 days they are to eat Matzah & eliminate leaven from your houses.
- . 1st & 7th day is a sacred holy day.

The commemoration of the 1st Born Plague:

But, here, YHWH does ask us to commemorate a plague – the Plague of the Firstborn. Why?



When we know with an absolute reality that YHWH is the Lord, we then can consider what a firstborn really is. What does it mean to be a **“bechor”** a Firstborn?

As we read with Ya’acov concerning Reuven he was the strength & vitality of the father. He is meant to at least symbolically, continue his

parents' legacy. However, the Firstborn does not have to be the actual firstborn. The one to continue his parents' values was never in scripture the first-born.



Yitschaq (Isaac) carried on his father's legacy, not Ishmael.

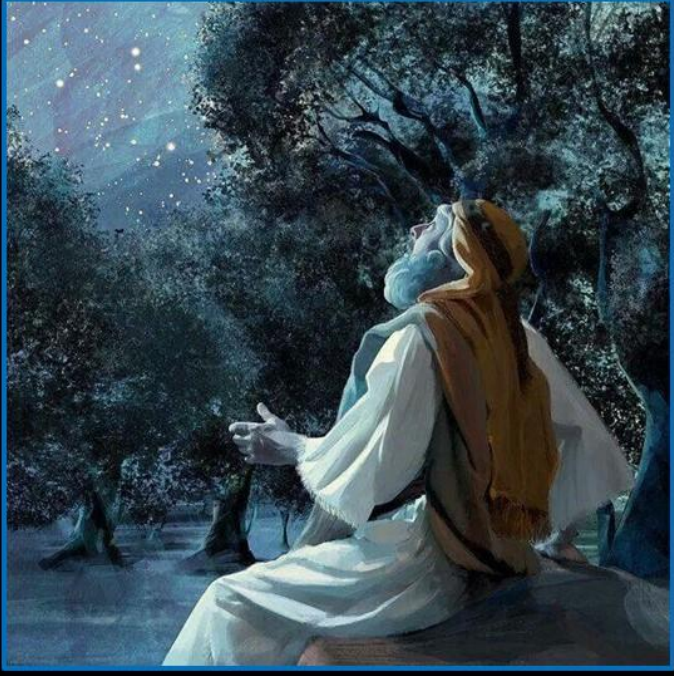


Ya'acov (Jacob) carried on Yitschaq's (Isaac's) legacy, not **Esav**. Also, YHWH went on to choose **Yahudah** [Judah] to be the one to retain the inheritance that would bring forth **King David** who also was not the first-born.

Why then is there so much emphasis on the first-born if he was never the one chosen. We know Biblical emphasis implies that the first-born would always receive the inheritance & the blessing which reminds us of **Yaacov** who received these by deception.

In calling Yisrael the Firstborn of YHWH was he not calling them to bring his values to the rest of mankind who are in fact his wayward children and it was for Yisrael to reveal Him & his ways. In fact, the Mission to teach the World goes all the way back to Abraham hundreds of years earlier when we read in:

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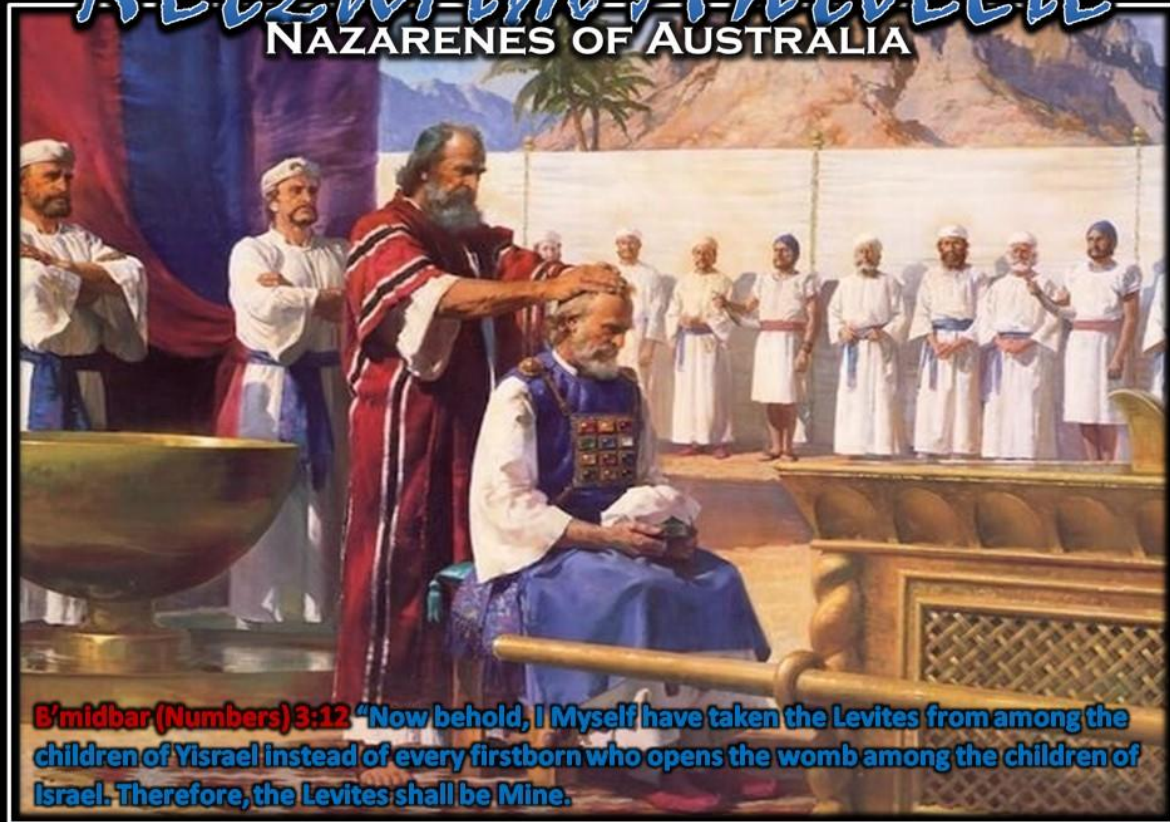
The Promise
Bereshiyth (Genesis)
12:3 And in you all the clans of the earth shall be blessed."

Bereshiyth (Genesis) 12:3 And in you all the clans of the earth shall be blessed."

We know however that Yisrael as the set-apart nation to YHWH failed with the Golden Calf incident & so we can then understand this verse too:

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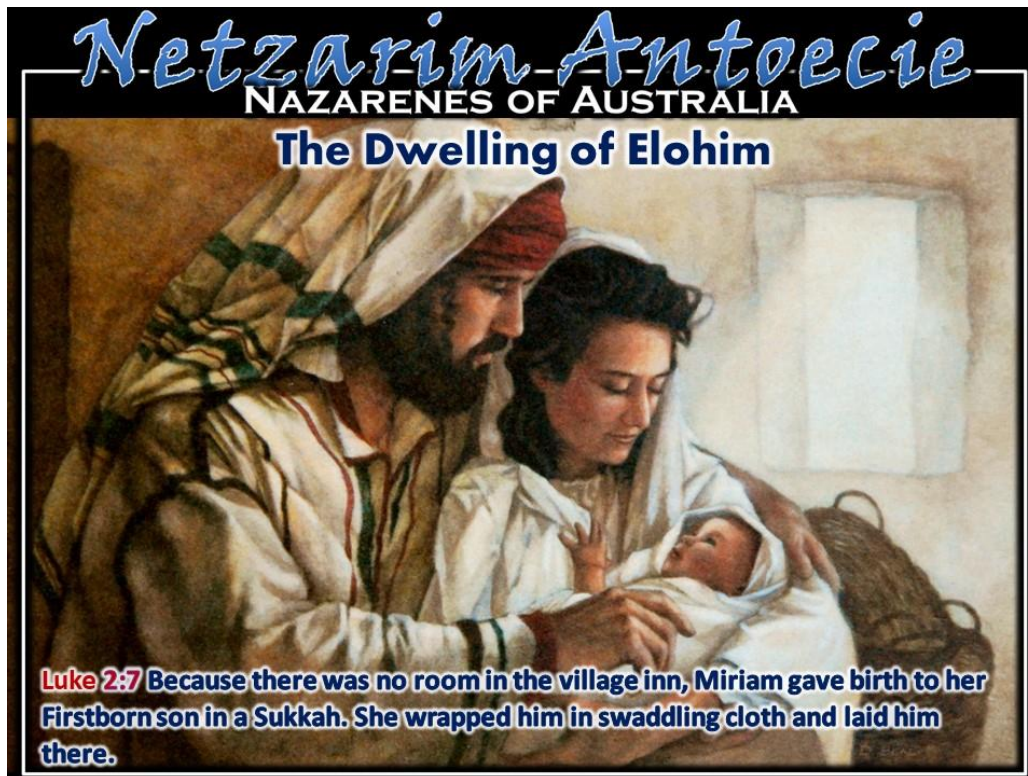


B'midbar (Numbers) 3:12 "Now behold, I Myself have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of every firstborn who opens the womb among the children of Israel. Therefore, the Levites shall be Mine.

We now come to see the significance of the firstborn when we see how the Levites and especially the Priests, the Kohanim from Aharon's line were chosen as the intermediary between the people & YHWH and why they were to be **Kadosh** (Holy).

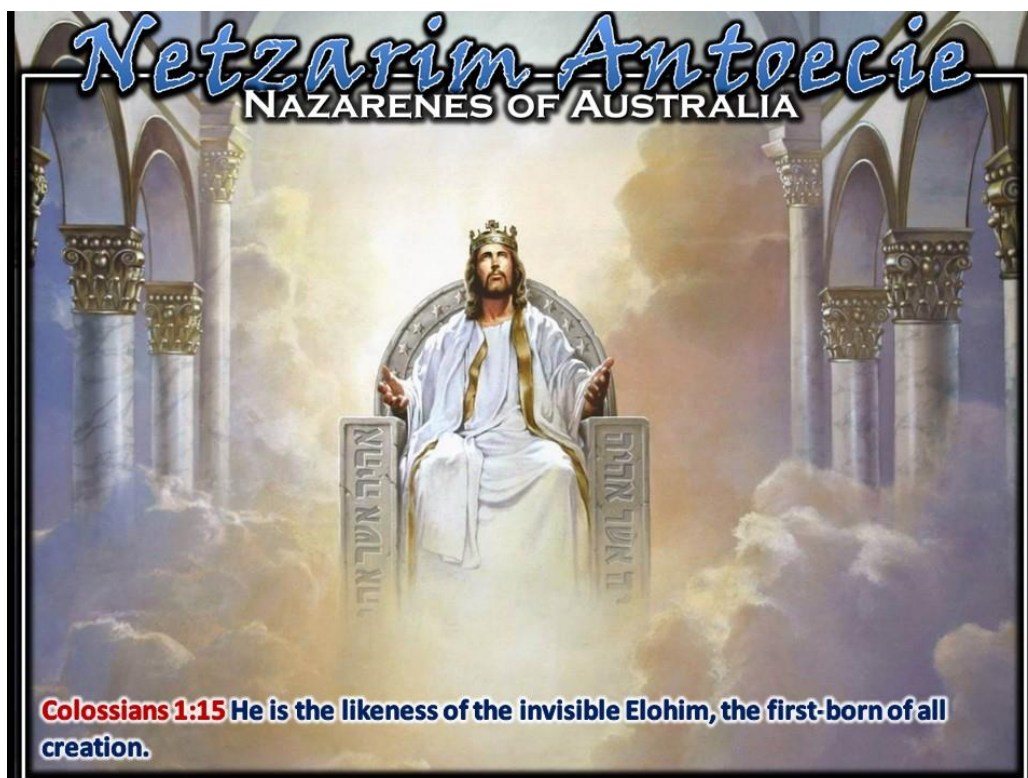
With these thoughts in our minds, I hope we begin to see something quite amazing. This entire biblical emphasis on the first-born surely is prophetically guiding us to the only true first-born who would truly demonstrate the values of the Father & his Character & that is of course our Master Yahusha [**Yeshua**] since we know that even the Levites corrupted the ways of Yah & failed to bring the true values of YHWH to the world.

This truth of the blessing of the Firstborn begins truly to be revealed at the birth of **Yahusha** [**Yeshua**] since we know that he had no true earthly father & was born at a special time as we read in:



Luke 2:7 Because there was no room in the village inn, Miriam gave birth to her Firstborn son in a Sukkah. She wrapped him in swaddling cloth and laid him there.

Even more striking however are these verses which implies the superior position of our Master in:



Colossians 1:15 He is the likeness of the invisible Elohim, the first-born of all creation.

We do so clearly see that He is Elohim in human form & as Hebrews declares in:

Ivri'im [Hebrews] 1:3 Who is the brightness of His Glory and the express image of His person and upholding all things by the word of His power,

Surely these verses leave us in little doubt of His Divinity even if we fail to fully understand it though we see that Scripture constantly wishes to place Him in the most elevated place as we read in:



Colossians 1:18 And He is the Head of the body, the assembly, who is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that He might become the One who is first in all.

Hopefully, we now come to see how **Mitsrayim** [Egypt] who killed the First-born of YHWH being Yisrael was punished by the death of their first-born according to the righteous judgement of YHWH. How then will the world that Crucified the most holy & beloved first-born of YHWH not also suffer if they fail to repent wholeheartedly. It was this truth that caused **Kepha** [Peter] to speak these words in:

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Ha Maasey Ha Shilichiyim [Acts] 2:36-38 “Therefore let the whole house of Yisrael know for certain that Elohim has made this Yahusha [Yeshua], whom you impaled, both Master and Messiah.” **37** And having heard this they were cut to the heart and said to Kepha and the rest of the emissaries, “men, brothers, what shall we do?” **38** And Kepha said to them, “repent and let each one of you be immersed in the name of Yahusha [Yeshua] Messiah for the forgiveness of sins.

It is therefore with the knowledge that Yahusha [Yeshua] imparted the absolute truth of Yahweh to all those who have received him which makes these words resonate in our soul to give us such exceeding joy as declared in:

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Hitgalut [Revelation] 1:5-6

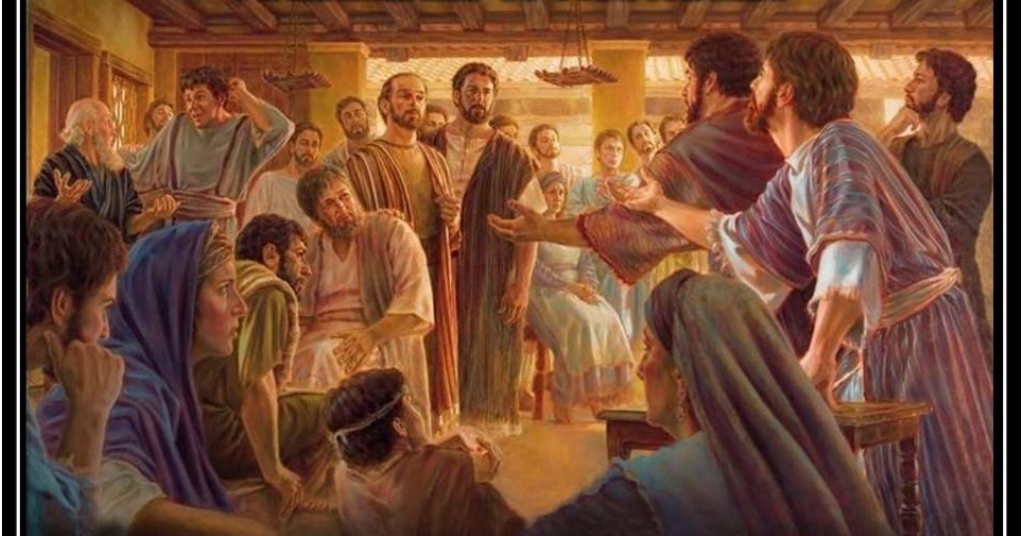


Hitgalut (Revelation) 1:5 and from Yahusha [Yeshua] Messiah, the trustworthy witness, the first-born from the dead, and the ruler of the sovereigns of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, **6** and has made us sovereigns and priests to His Elohim and Father, to Him be esteem and rule forever and ever. **Aměn.**

If we truly profess faith, how diligent are we and how transformed are we by our faith because this is what Scripture says:

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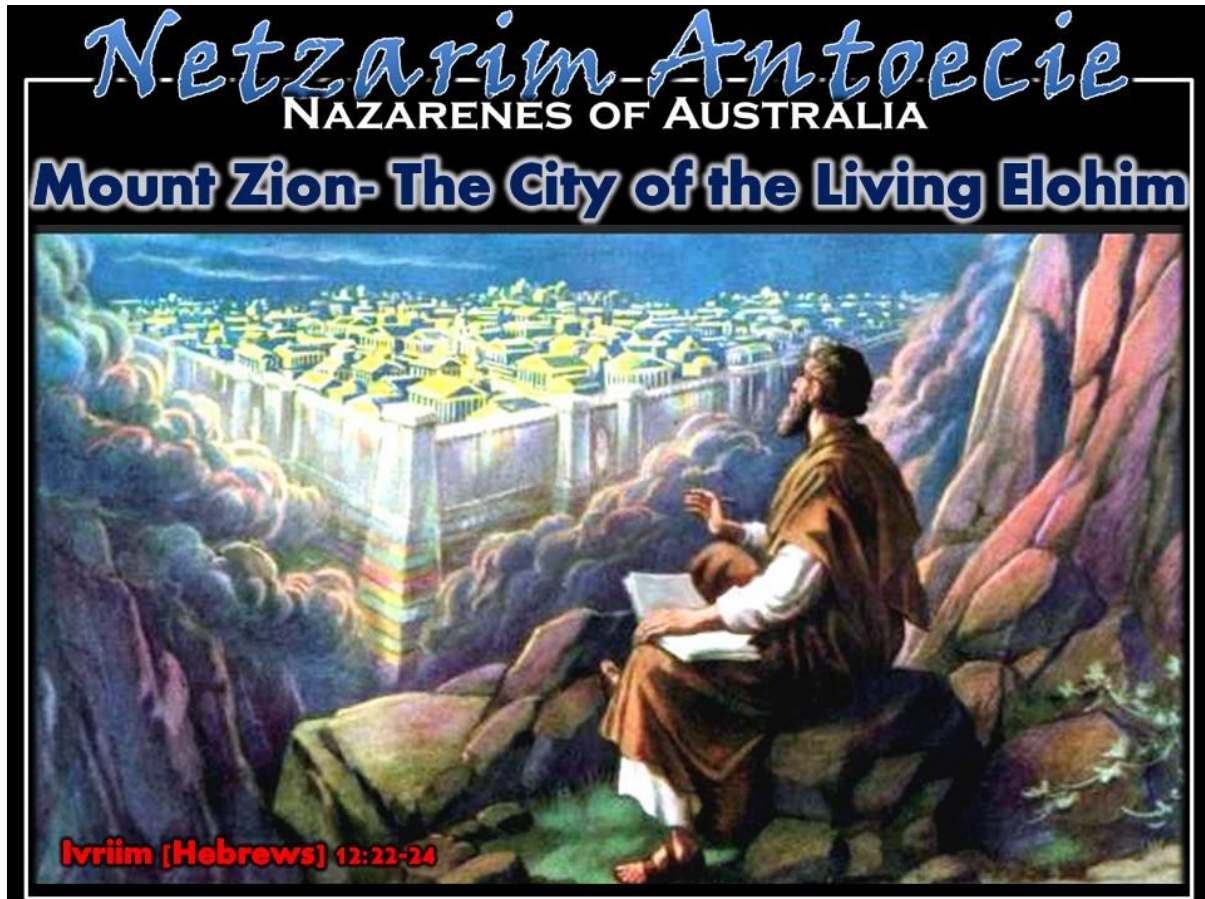
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Romiyim (Romans) 8:29 Because those whom He knew beforehand, He also ordained beforehand to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, for Him to be the first-born among many brothers.

Romiyim (Romans) 8:29 Because those whom He knew beforehand, He also ordained beforehand to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, for Him to be the first-born among many brothers.

Therefore, our call is extremely high since we are now a redeemed people called to bring the name, character & Holiness of YHWH revealed through us to the World so these verses emphasis with great intensity our role in the Assembly of the First-born:



Ivriim (Hebrews) 12:22- 24 But you have drawn near to Mount Tsiyon and to the city of the living Elohim, to the heavenly Yerushalayim, to myriads of messengers, **23** to the entire gathering and assembly of the first-born having been enrolled in heaven and to Elohim the Judge of all and to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, **24** and to Yahusha [Yeshua] the Mediator of a new covenant and to the blood of sprinkling which speaks better than the blood of Hebel (Abel).

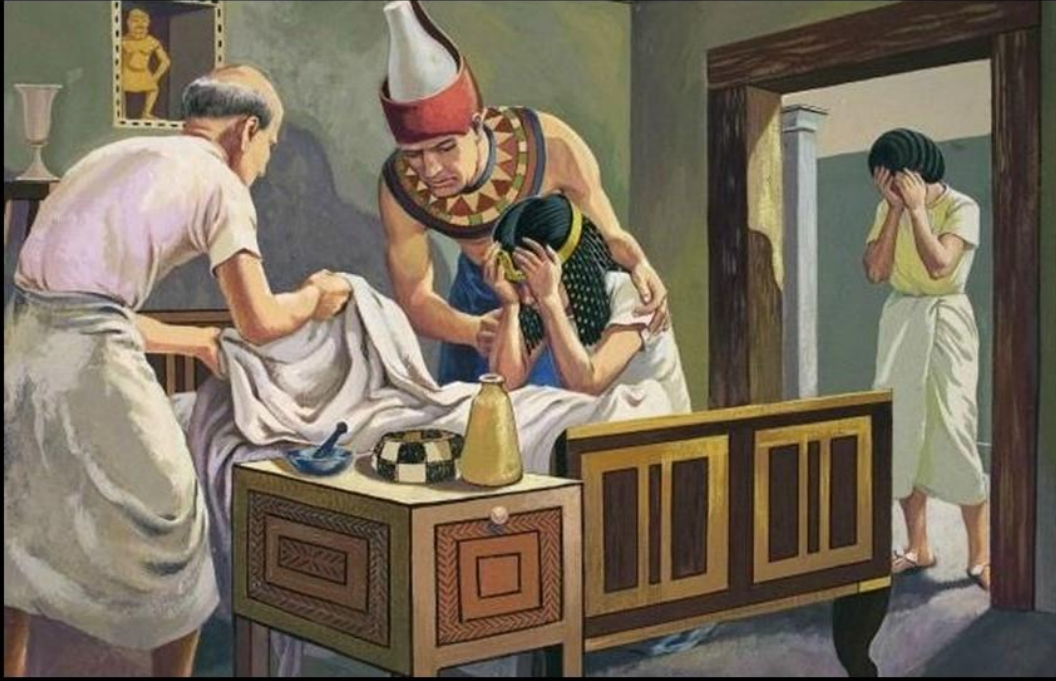
So, with all this in mind, let us revisit the Plague of the Firstborn. The Exodus story is not just about freeing the Israelites – It is also about teaching everyone to recognize YHWH.

Mitsrayim (Egypt) had their own idolatrous worship and corrupt values to spread – they brutally oppressed the Yisraelites, and committed genocide, they refused to recognize YHWH as Elohim –

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The Death of the First-Born



Therefore, YHWH kills their firstborn, symbolically preventing the transmission of **Mitsrayim's** idolatrous values to the next generation.

And now let us go back to that very last section of our parashat –Laws relating to the first-born. Why are these laws there? And why do they call on us to remember the Plague of the Firstborn? That plague is a microcosm of the whole reason for the Exodus in the first place. It expresses the entire agenda of YHWH. It is all about teaching the world to recognize that everything we have, everything we are, is from Elohim.

Yisrael was also commanded to **Redeem** their firstborns as a reminder of when **YHWH killed** their firstborns. When we have our first children and our new animals, when we are most susceptible to thinking that we are creators...we take the very object that turned us into creators, and symbolically **devote it** to YHWH. And that is why these laws are here.

May we always remember that Yahusha [**Yeshua**] gave his Talmidim (Disciples) as well as us the Mission to bring His Word & character to the World until his return to reclaim his faithful people & rule with an Iron hand as the perfect representative of his father until **all submit** to the Heavenly rule. This is best described by the following in:

CorintYah Aleph (1 Corinthians) 15:27 For "He has put all under His feet." But when He says "all are put under Him," it is clear that He who put all under Him is excepted. **28** And when all are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself shall also be subject to Him who put all under Him, in order that Elohim be all in all.

May this truth never fail to amaze us & cause us to esteem & praise YHWH & His Son Yahusha [Yeshua] for ever for His goodness.

Amein!

Netzarim Ketuvim: Luke 22:7-30



Netzarim - Antoecie NAZARENES OF AUSTRALIA Yeshua's Covenant Confirming Meal

Luka Ben Manahem [Luke] 22 : 1-36 The Festival of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Pesach [Passover]. 2 And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to kill Him, for they feared the people. 3 And Satan had entered into Yahūdah [Judas], who was called man from Qerioth [the districts], who was numbered among the twelve. 4 And he went and spoke with the chief priests and officers, how he might deliver Him up to them. 5 And they were glad and agreed to give him silver. 6 And he promised and was seeking an occasion to deliver Him up to them, away from the crowd. 7 And the Day of Unleavened Bread came when the Passover had to be slaughtered. 8 And He [Yeshua] sent Kēpha [Peter] and Yahuchanan [John], saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us to eat." 9 And they said to Him, "Where do You wish us to prepare?" 10 And He said to them, "See, as you enter the city, a man shall meet you carrying a jar of water. Follow him into the house he enters. 11 "And you shall say to the master of the house, 'the Teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room where I might eat the Passover with My taught ones?' 12 "And he shall show you a large, furnished upper room. Prepare it there." 13 And going they found it as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover. 14 When the hour had come, He sat down and the twelve emissaries with Him. 15 And He said to them, "With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before My suffering,

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16 for I say to you, I shall certainly not eat of it again until it is fulfilled in the reign of Elohim." 17 And taking the cup, giving thanks, He said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves, 18 for I say to you, I shall certainly not drink of the fruit of the vine until the reign of Elohim comes." 19 And taking bread, giving thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you, do this in remembrance of Me." 20 Likewise the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood which is shed for you. 21 "But see, the hand of him delivering Me up is with Me on the table. 22 "For indeed the Son of Adam goes as it has been decreed, but woe to that man by whom He is delivered up!" 23 And they began to ask among themselves, which of them it could be who was about to do this. 24 And there also took place a dispute among them, as to which of them seemed to be greater. 25 And He said to them, "The sovereigns of the gentiles rule over them and those who control them are called 'workers of good.' 26 "But not so with you but let him who is greatest among you be as the youngest and the leader as one who serves. 27 "For who is greater, the one who sits at the table, or the one who serves? Is it not the one who sits at the table? But I am in your midst as the One who serves. 28 "But you are those who have remained with Me in My trials. 29 "And I covenant for you, as My Father covenanted for Me, a reign, 30 to eat and drink at My table, in My reign and to sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Yisra'el."

On the theme that we have seen as revealing the character & glorious Nature of Yahweh we come to see how He in his exceeding goodness being the creator would send forth His beloved First-born who has inherited all that is. Yeshua himself as His First-born has the Mission of revealing the heart & nature of the Father which He has done so perfectly. So, now at the Pesach [the Passover] we come to see how merciful the Father is in giving His own beloved Son to be the one true sacrifice to free His people from the Slavery of Sin which is the connection that our Torah has with the remembrance of the Pesach or Passover where **Yahusha [Yeshua]** is the lamb that frees Sinners from the slavery of sin to the praise of the Heavenly Father forever. Even more than this! Yeshua came to reveal the Father & this is so perfectly shown when Philip asks Yeshua to show them the Father.

Yeshua then says, "If you have seen Me then you have seen the Father."

Was this not Yeshua's great Mission too & now is it not ours also, which surely can only bring praise of Him who called us. **Amein!**

Tehillim: Mizmor [Psalm] 114:1-8

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Tehillim:
Mizmor
[Psalm]
114:1-8

**The Hallel
of Pesach**

This **Mizmor** is one of the Psalms of ascent & is one, most related to the exodus. It reveals Yahweh's response to honour the promises in the Abrahamic covenant given to **Ya'acov** [Jacob]. This then further alludes to the parting of the sea of Reeds & 40 years later to stopping of the **Yarden [the Jordan]**. The Mountains skipping also refers to His awesome appearance on Mt. Sinai with nature unable to resist His power & will. The only possible response of Nature was to tremble so how much more should Mankind. **Selah!**