

SERIES: LIFE, MONEY, HOPE #4

TITLE: THE PRINCIPLE OF FIRST.

Exodus 13:1-2 (NIV) ¹³ 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 human or animal.”

Exodus 13:12-13 (NIV) 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.

1. THE FIRST MUST BE SACRIFICED OR REDEEMED.

Malachi 3:10-11 (NIV) ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. **Test me in this,**” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. ¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the LORD Almighty.

2. THE FIRST FRUITS MUST BE OFFERED.

Proverbs 3:9-10 (NIV) ⁹ Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the **firstfruits** of all your crops;¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Exodus 23:19 (NIV) ¹⁹ “**Bring** the best of the **firstfruits** of your soil to the **house of the LORD** your God.

Genesis 4:3-5 (NIV) ³ In the course of time **Cain brought some of the fruits** of the soil as an offering to the LORD. ⁴ And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the **firstborn of his flock**. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵ but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

3. THE TITHE MUST BE FIRST.

Leviticus 27:30 (NIV)““A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, **belongs to the LORD**; it is holy to the LORD.

Exodus 13:14-15 (NIV) 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. ¹⁵When 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.’