

Where's Your Chair?

Exodus 13 11-22



'Whoever offers me the sacrifice of thanksgiving honours me
and to those who keep my way will I show the salvation of God.'
Psalm 50:24

Praising:

We'll bring him hearts that love
him;
we'll bring him thankful praise,
and souls for ever striving
to follow in his ways:
and these shall be the treasures
we offer to the King;
and these are gifts that ever
our grateful hearts may bring.

Reading:

Exodus 13:11-22
Israel's deliverance remembered

The Exodus event reinterprets an earlier practice of sacrifice rooted in ancient fertility beliefs. Moses announces that the practise of offering the first born males to God, is to become an established part of ritual life for the Israelites. A system of substitution helps them stay within what is legally,

morally and spiritually acceptable to God. It amounts to a rather bloody reminder of the means by which God delivered his chosen people. The geographical note explains that the round-about wilderness route prevented the newly liberated Israelites from walking straight into war with the Philistines. The pillars of cloud and fire reflect the custom of carrying a burning brazier at the head of a marching army to indicate the line of advance by day and night. Cloud and fire have become traditional ways of expressing God's presence and guidance.

Listening:

Praying:

Lord we foresee in Exodus the blood of the one who offered himself up for us

- we honour you for the pure and perfect self-offering of your firstborn Son
- we praise you for seeing through our faults and flaws and showing us forgiveness
- we glorify you for the light that leads us forward to an eternity of freedom

Father: make my life a living reminder of the death Jesus died for me. Grant me a spirit of sacrifice: giving not because I have to, but because I want to. Because I'm grateful. Amen

Doing:

Tuesday, 09 August 2016