Recap from 2 weeks ago: God's prophetic timing for the release of the nation of Israel from enslavement in Egypt has come. He tells Moses that in 14 days it shall commence.

That very same day (14 days out) God implements the Jewish calendar. The first holy event on that calendar would be the Passover. He gives precise instructions on the sacrificial lamb preparation, the urgency during the meal, and He also proclaims the strict obedience to the holiness of the ceremony when it takes place (who can/cannot participate). Unbeknownst to the Israelites, but clear to us, this first Passover is the blueprint for the last Passover around 1500 years later.

Exodus 13:1-3 The first-born inheritance system of giving a double portion to the first-born along with a designation of being Patriarch, or the head, of the next generation. But here God is adding that the first-born of "both man and beast" is to be dedicated to Him. Most likely this is done for these reasons: ① To remind every generation that follows that the first-born is God's gift to a family because for their obedience to His commands. ② To remind every generation of the Passover where the first-born was lost in the house, and nation general of Egypt. ③ That when looking at that first-born every family would be reminded of the Supernatural deliverance and provision that God displayed during the Plagues and also the finding favor of the Israelites in Egypt, when they plundered all the goods from the Egyptians to take on their way. The unleavened bread is also again emphasized as the only bread to be eaten on that holy day. Again, leaven was the symbol of a little sin, and a little sin permeates the whole body. In other words, purposely exclude anything unpure on that day. God did not want Israel to take any "Egypt" with them. Especially their false gods and goddesses or any of the pagan worship that came with them.

His whole purpose for Israel would be for them to be a set apart nation, holy and pure. A nation that would be a nation of priests from which the Messiah would come.

Exodus 13:4-5: God told Moses 2 things: First, that He

would deliver the nation of Israel from Egypt by His power and secondly that He would safely let the Israelites enter the promised land. Also, solely by His power. And to make things more special He also promised that this land would be all set up and in move-in condition. A land flowing (abundant) in milk and honey (I know we have covered what this means at least 10 times, but there might be someone listening who has never heard this). Flowing with "milk" means cattle. And cattle means plenty of grazing land and abundant water. Flowing with "honey" means bees, and bees polinate trees and plants. So fruit trees and vegitation of all kinds and that also in excess.

Exodus 13:6-10 (The Feast of Unleavened Bread). God instructs this to be celebrated every year. This is so families can rehearse, and remember the Exodus as a teaching opportunity for younger generations (Ex "This is what the LORD did for you and I", and "Let us put ourselves there.").

Exodus 13:11-15: The first-born of the animals: These were to be literal sacrifices of the first-born male of all animals except the unclean animals. For those you were to substitute a clean animal in its place. The first-born son: Again, this was a spiritual sacrifice. To dedicate them, as the head of the next generation, as a spiritual leader in word and deed to the LORD.

Exodus 13:16 A visible sign: In obedience to this ordenance one was to have a sign on their "hand" and on their forehead ("frontlets"). This was done so that every household could be identified in being obedient to the Law of the firstborn. (Side note: God said on the hand or forehead which the master counterfeiter will use when he requires the lost to place his mark on their hands or foreheads in order to be able to buy and sell and as sign of their obedience to the anti-christ).

Exodus 13:17-18: God, in His foreknowledge He knew that leading the children of Israel to the promised land by the path of least distance would put them smack dab in the middle of Philistine country. He also knew that this nation

of whiners (as we will see over and over again) would also immediately turn around at the first sign of conflict, especially if they were only a short distance away from Egypt. God delivers them down a different route that would actually be much shorter by air, but many times longer by the land route. (Little did they know that God would let them have the "air route" by drawing a straight line through the Red Sea. He would make a dry dirt road where there was thousands of feet of water! (Rabbit trail/hole: Every single believer in the Bible from Adam through the Disciples, Apostles and Jesus followers up through the first century always lived in a time of uncertainty of what would come next. Always living in a state of wondering how all things would end in their own lives and what would happen next in the world. Except us! Over the last 50 years (2,000 years after it was written) the Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ has been allowed to be understood. Never before has mankind had the blueprint of all events that were, or that will be at their disposal. God waited 6,000 years till you and I were born. He placed us here to usher in His end game and to speak the redemption that is found in Jesus Christ to the lost. God tells us today is the day for His return, and He told His prophets to tell us as: (see Scriptures- Daniel, Amos); Exodus 13:19 To this day, devout Jews still wish to be buried in, or close to Jerusalem, preferably as close as possible. This is because they know that their Messiah (Who we know as Jesus) will one day reign and rule from there. Most also hang on the truth that they will reign and rule with Him. So they wish to be placed where the King will gather them up from the graves. This is why we have the example of Mary going to prepare the body of Jesus on Resurrection Day (Mary Magdalene) and the other Mary (of Bethany; Martha and Lazarus' sister) anointed Jesus' feet with the costly oil. They put extreme value on preserving the body (and the Egyptians are the most refined in this practice!). This is why enemies of Israel would desecrate the bodys, scatter the bones, and even burn the remains. Understandable in one sense, because Scripture made it very clear that the faithful would be gathered together with their "fathers" (ancestors) to "sleep" or

"rest" with them until the Kingdom age. Even Jesus reaffirmed this when He recounted the event of the rich man and Lazarus. Of course we know two things: (35)

One; that this body (corruption) must be made new (put on incorruption) and two; that God does not have to search for our bodies or gather the pieces back together again. Just like He "knitted" us together in our mothers womb long before the foundation of the world, He will once again reunite our soul, which will of course be with Him in heaven, with a new resurrection body that He will once again "knit" together that will be like His. Flawless and Unique.

Exodus 13:20-22 THIS MUST HAVE BEEN MORE SPECTACULAR THAN ANYTHING ISRAEL HAD EVER WITNESSED! His presence sourounded them. Spectacular and reassuring to say the least! This is important for us to plant in our memory banks because we will see how quickly Israel will forget God's Omnipotence at the first sign of trouble. Plant in our memory banks because we too tend to have these memory lapses. When God is working in our lives as a Pilar of warmth in cold times, and a Pillar of light in dark times and surrounding us in His presence, which is so thick you can cut it with a knife, and then something goes south and we quickly wonder if God cares, or where God is! This is why I harp on having a memory card that lists the miracles in our lives! A card that is a reminder that all those times of worry resulted in God working a miracle in our lives that He designed especially for us and especially for that occasion. And as we look over all those times of deliverance we will see that He didn't fail us then and He won't fail us now, He can't!

Exodus 14:1-4 Looking at this from 10,000 feet, it looks like God is placing Israel in a hopeless situation (which it actually is). That wiping out Israel will be like shooting fish in a barrel. But the exact opposite is happening! And notice how God is just toying with Pharaohs heart (and mind). This is just a reminder that we can never ever view a situation from what it looks like. We can never ever use the word "impossible", or worse yet "never". (perfect example was Haman dealing with Mordecai, or how the Satraps tried to trick King Darius into throwing Daniel to the Lions den (Daniel 6 - for your reference)