

PUT GOD FIRST

I. God cannot act outside his _____.

A. He cannot _____: He is immutable

B. He doesn't _____ like man thinks.

Isaiah 58:8-9 "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. ⁹For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

C. God is _____. It's His preeminence.

Exodus 20:3 "You must not have any other god but me."

D. God cannot accept being _____.

Exodus 13:1-2; 11-13 The Lord said to Moses, ²"**Dedicate** to me every firstborn among the Israelites. The first offspring to be born, of both humans and animals, **belongs to me**... "This is what you must do when the Lord fulfills the promise he swore to you and to your ancestors. When he gives you the land where the Canaanites now live, ¹² you must present all firstborn sons and firstborn male animals to the Lord, for they belong to him (**They are mine!**). ¹³A firstborn donkey may be bought back (redeemed) from the Lord by presenting a lamb or young goat in its place. But if you do not buy it back, you must break its neck. However, you must buy back every firstborn son."

II. The firstborn must be _____ or _____.

The _____ (lamb) must be sacrificed.

The unclean (donkey) must be _____.

Leviticus 11:3-8 You may eat any animal that has completely split hooves and chews the cud. ⁴You may not, however, eat the following animals that have split hooves or that chew the cud, but not both. The camel chews the cud but does not have split hooves, so it is ceremonially unclean for you. ⁵The hyrax (rock badger) chews the cud but does not have split hooves, so it is unclean. ⁶The hare chews the cud but does not have split hooves, so it is unclean. ⁷The pig has evenly split hooves but does not chew the cud, so it is unclean. ⁸You may not eat the meat of these animals or even touch their carcasses. They are ceremonially unclean for you.

A. The clean must be sacrificed so the unclean can be redeemed.

B. It takes _____ to give the _____, believing there will be others

1. It is not the %, it is faith that _____ the blessing.

2. God wanted all the plunder of Jericho because it was the *first* city. Joshua 6:18-19 "Do not take any of the things set apart for destruction, or you yourselves will be completely destroyed, and you will bring trouble on the camp of Israel. ¹⁹Everything made from silver, gold, bronze, or iron is sacred to the Lord and must be brought into his treasury."

See Joshua 7:1; 11-12

3. Jesus was God's first seed, His _____.

Romans 5:8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

III. The **First Fruits** Must Be _____

Proverbs 3:9-10 (NIV) Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the **first fruits** 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 Bring the best of the **first fruits** of your soil to the house of the Lord your God.

A. You _____ the first fruits, you do not give them.

B. You _____ give what you do not _____.

C. You either bring it or you _____ it.

III. The tithe must be first.

Leviticus 27:30 One-tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord and must be set apart to him as holy.

A. The difference between Cain and Abel's Offerings (Genesis 4:2-5a)

B. Tithe is giving from the _____.

C. The tithe is given _____.

Conclusion: _____, the clean first born, was sacrificed so the unclean _____ could be redeemed. Exodus 13:14-16

