

## Sermon Handout

### Israel, God's Son

Exodus 4:19-23

- I. God declares Israel to be his son, his firstborn v. 22 (*cf.* Jer 2:6; 3:19)
  - a. Set in contrast to Pharaoh's firstborn v. 23  
The concept in both cases is plural, signifying a whole: Israel *vs.* Egypt
  - b. "My firstborn" Israel, but *see* Jer 31:9 ("Ephraim is my firstborn")
    - i. Israel is Jacob's name, given him by God Gen 32:28
    - ii. Esau was born prior to Jacob, but Jacob became the heir Gen 25
    - iii. Manasseh was prior to Ephraim, but Ephraim the heir Gen 48
    - iv. Joseph was treated as firstborn & his sons to follow him
  - c. The lesson: Israel is one, but Israel is many
    - i. Primogeniture is not absolute
    - ii. Another can be moved to replace the one born first
    - iii. Jesus is the true firstborn of God, the true Israel Col 1:12-18; Lk 3  
Jesus **not** descended from Joseph Mt 1:2
    - iv. The church is the "Israel of God" Gal 6:16  
This is due to Israel's unfaithfulness *see* Mt 21:43
  
- II. St. Matthew portrays Jesus the Christ as the New Israel
  - a. Called out of Egypt Mt 2:13-15, 19-23 (esp. v. 15, quoting Hos 11:1)  
*See* reference to Ephraim in Hos 11:3 (*cf.* 2:8)
  - b. The exodus event prefigures the gospel Jer 16:14-21; Micah 7:14-17  
**Gentiles** shall know YHWH Jer 16:19-21; Zech 8:20-23 (*cf.* Mt 28:19-20)
  - c. God took his son (Israel) out of bondage, delivered them to Sinai & the Law
  - d. Like Moses, Jesus proved his identity through signs Jn 10:25, 37-38; 20:30-31
  - e. Jesus took his followers to the Mount, explained the Law Mt. 5-7
  
- III. God's son Israel, the Church: always a mixed multitude (a covenantal unit)
  - a. Abraham Gen 15:1-6; Gal 3:11-16; Gen 17:9-17
  - b. Israel coming out of Egypt Ex 12:38 *cf.* Ex 9:20
  - c. Being "of Israel" was no guarantee of salvation Jer 5:1-9; Hos 14:8; Jn 8:39*ff*
  - d. Likewise in the Church, the New Israel Jn 1:9-13; Gal 3:5-9; Rom 9:3-8
  - e. There is **one** body in Christ through baptism – Jew & Gentile I Cor 12:13

So then, let us believe Jesus Christ and be faithful to him. He has delivered us from bondage and incorporated us into Himself, the True Israel of God. May God bless and keep us.  
Amen.