

Additional Background Information on Exodus 4:22-26

“The Sins of the Father”

Lesson 10a

Genesis 17:1-4, 9-14 NASU

“¹ Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, ‘I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless. ² I will establish My covenant between Me and you, And I will multiply you exceedingly.’ ³ Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying, ⁴ ‘As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, And you will be the father of a multitude of nations.’”

“⁹ God said further to Abraham, ‘Now as for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. ¹⁰ This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹ And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you.

¹² And every male among you who is eight days old shall be circumcised throughout your generations, a servant who is born in the house or who is bought with money from any foreigner, who is not of your descendants. ¹³ A servant who is born in your house or who is bought with your money shall surely be circumcised; thus shall My covenant be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴ But an uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.”

Exodus 4:22-26 NIV

“²² ‘Then say to Pharaoh, “This is what the LORD says: Israel is my **firstborn son**,²³ and I told you, ‘**Let my son go**, so he may worship me.’ But you refused to let him go; so I will kill **your firstborn son**.”’”²⁴ At a lodging place on the way, the LORD **met [Moses]** and was about to kill **him**.²⁵ But Zipporah took a flint knife, cut off her son’s foreskin and touched **[Moses] feet** with it. ‘Surely you are a **bridegroom** of blood to me,’ she said.²⁶ So the LORD let him alone. (At that time she said ‘**bridegroom** of blood,’ referring to circumcision.)”

Literal alternate rendering of the Hebrew.

4:24 - And it came to pass in the lodging-place on the way, that Yahweh met him and he sought to kill him.

4:25 - And Zipporah took a flint and she cut the foreskin of her son, and she touched it to his feet. And she said, 'For a covenant-relative of blood you are to me.'

4:26 - And he let him alone. Then she said, 'a covenant-relative of blood', because of the circumcision.