

The background is a deep blue gradient, darker at the edges and lighter towards the center. Numerous bright blue and white light rays emanate from the top center, creating a starburst effect. The entire background is peppered with small, white, star-like specks of varying sizes.

THEY BELONG TO ME

In the culture of ancient Israel and under the plan/direction of God, the firstborn son was to provide future LEADERSHIP of the family. Therefore, he was **responsible** for the family's **well being**.

- Received preferential treatment including patriarchal blessing and double inheritance
- Successors of dynasties/kings given to firstborn son (*1 Chronicles 21:1-3*)
- God claimed the people of Israel as his firstborn among the nations. (*Exodus 4:22-23*)
- God claimed the tribe of Levi in place of the firstborn among the Israelites. Their tabernacle/temple service substituted for all the Israelite firstborn. (*Numbers 3:11-13*)

The first offspring of every womb belongs to me, including all the firstborn males of your livestock, whether from herd or flock. Redeem the firstborn donkey with a lamb, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem all your firstborn sons. No one is to appear before me empty-handed. (*Exodus 34:19-20*)

Pointing **backward** to **Egypt** and **forward** to **Christ**, the firstborn were a continual reminder of God's **ownership** and man's **debt**.

Every firstborn animal must be
sacrificed and every person
redeemed.

- a) acknowledgement
- b) solemn ceremony
- c) pay off (when warranted)

OLD COVENANT

a) **sacrifice/slaughter** or b) **payment/substitute**

a) They are **doomed** or b) They are **released**

NEW COVENANT

The priest and the lamb are valid **no longer**. The firstborn of heaven has substituted for all.

Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called many receive the promised eternal inheritance. He has died as a RANSOM to set them free from sins committed, even under the old covenant. (*Hebrews 9:15*)

After dying, this LAMB OF GOD has come back to life. This is not a **symbol** of resurrection but an **actual** resurrection. He is the FIRST BORN FROM AMONG THE DEAD!

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were **REDEEMED** from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. (*1 Peter 1:18-20*)

The background is a deep blue gradient, darker at the edges and lighter towards the center. Numerous bright blue and white light rays emanate from the top center, creating a starburst effect. The entire background is peppered with small, white, star-like specks of varying sizes.

THEY BELONG TO ME