

Shabbat shalom, the reading for this Torah portion is Genesis 47:28-50:26, but I want to start with, what is a firstborn? It is a status given to the eldest son, and is the next leader to lead their generation, and generations after their own as long as God allows them to live and teach. And Exodus 13:2 says, "Set aside for me all the firstborn. Whatever is first from the womb among the people of Israel, both of humans and of animals, belong to me. The firstborn in the world's eyes is the one who is born first, or the eldest, in the Torah it is the firstborn son, Numbers 3:13 says, "All the firstborn males belong to me, because on the day I killed all firstborn males in Egypt, I separated for myself all the firstborn males in Israel, both human and animal. They are mine; I am Adonai."

But what I want to also focus on today is, why is the blessing of the firstborn important (females can not get the blessing of the firstborn or birthright, only the firstborn males can.) And to begin this I want to start off with a few quotes, Proverbs 17:6, "Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, while the glory of children is in their ancestors." Deuteronomy 21:17 "No, he must acknowledge as firstborn the son of the unloved wife by giving him a double portion of everything he owns for he is the firstfruits of his manhood." And these verses Proverbs 17:6, and Deuteronomy 21:17 explains the birthright, and Luke 12:48 says, "From him who has been given much, much will be demanded- from someone to whom people entrust much they ask still more." Being a firstborn is a big deal, you have more responsibility, but you get a lot of stuff for doing more work, more responsibility over your siblings, as well as becoming the next leader of the household. I believe God is trying to teach me that I have responsibility as a firstborn coming up as I grow in God's word, if you are a firstborn male what is God trying to tell you? Shabbat shalom.