

**Soft Hands and Open Hearts: Part IV
Soft Hearts and Open Hands toward God
(Deuteronomy 15:19-23)**

**Veritas Class
July 28, 2013**

A. Introductory Issues

1. Firstborn Texts

Exodus 13:2, 11-16

Exodus 22:29b-30

Numbers 18:15-18

Deuteronomy 15:19-23

2. The Structure of the Text

	V. 19	Vv. 20-23
Theme Statement	Every firstborn that is born among your herd and among your flock, the male you must dedicate to YHWH.	Before YHWH your God you may eat year by year at the place that YHWH chooses— you and your household.
Commentary	You may not work with the firstborn of your oxen.	But if it has any defect—lameness or blindness— any serious defect you may not sacrifice it to YHWH your God.
	And you may not shear the firstborn of your flock.	In your gates you may eat it, the clean and the unclean together, like the gazelle or like the deer. Only its blood you may not eat. On the ground you must pour it like water.

3. The Meaning of “firstborn” (*b^ekôr*)

4. The Scope of “firstborn”

B. Explanation

1. Moses' Call for Dedication of the Firstborn (v. 19)
 - a. The Basis of the Call: Numbers 3:13
 - b. The Reinforcement of the Call
 - (1) You may not use them as draft animals.
 - (2) You may not use their wool.
2. Moses' Instructions for the Sacrifice of the Firstborn
 - a. The Location of the Sacrifice
 - b. The Quality of the Sacrifice
 - c. The Value of Rejected Animals
3. Deuteronomy 12:21b-24 and 15:22-23
4. Deuteronomy 15:22-23 and Malachi 1:1-10

C. Application