

Deuteronomy 14:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt eat before the LORD thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the LORD thy God always.

Analysis

Thou shalt eat before the LORD thy God, in the place which he shall choose —The Festival Tithe was eaten, not merely given away. Israel brought **the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds** to the central sanctuary for a covenant meal. Worship includes feasting, not only fasting.

This foreshadows the Messianic banquet: **In this mountain shall the LORD of hosts make unto all people a feast** (Isaiah 25:6). Jesus ate with sinners (Matthew 9:10), instituted the Lord's Supper (Luke 22:19), and promised: **I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom** (Matthew 26:29). The tithe-meal taught: covenant life is abundant, joyful fellowship with God.

Historical Context

The centralized sanctuary (later the Jerusalem Temple) unified Israel's worship and prevented idolatrous syncretism at local shrines. Three times yearly (Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles), families brought their second tithe for celebratory meals, strengthening national unity and covenant identity.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's command to 'eat before the LORD' correct false ideas that spirituality equals severity and deprivation?
2. What does the practice of eating your tithe (rather than merely surrendering it) teach about God's desire for your participation in blessing?
3. How do you anticipate the coming Messianic banquet in your present worship and fellowship?

Interlinear Text

אֲשֶׁר	בָּמָקָם	וּמְ	אֱלֹהִים	יְבָרֶךְ	לִפְנֵי	יְהָוָה	בְּפָנָי	וְאַכְלָתִ	
And thou shalt eat	before	the LORD	thy God	in the place					H834
H398	H6440	H3068	H430	H4725					
וְיִגְתַּחַל	לִשְׁכָּחַ	וְשָׁמַם	וְשָׁמַם	וְמִשְׁאַל	וְלִזְבַּח				
which he shall choose	to place	his name	H8033	there the tithe	of thy corn				
H977	H7931	H8034		H4643	H1715				
וְצָאֵת	בְּקִרְבָּם	וּבְכִרְכָּרָתָם	וְיִצְבְּךָ	בְּתִירְשָׁבָתָם					
of thy wine	and of thine oil	and the firstlings	of thy herds	and of thy flocks					
H8492	H3323	H1062	H1241	H6629					
כָּל	אֱלֹהִים	יְהָוָה	אַתָּה	לִירְאָה	תָּלָמֵד	לִמְעָן			
	thy God			to fear	that thou mayest learn				
	H3605	H3068	H430	H853	H3925	H3925			
בָּמִימִן									
always									
H3117									

