

Deuteronomy 16:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Seven days shalt thou keep a solemn feast unto the LORD thy God in the place which the LORD shall choose: because the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thine increase, and in all the works of thine hands, therefore thou shalt surely rejoice.

Analysis

Seven days shalt thou keep a solemn feast unto the LORD thy God—The Hebrew tachog (אָחַג, 'you shall feast') comes from chagag, meaning to make a pilgrimage feast, to celebrate. The phrase 'unto the LORD' (לַיהוָה) specifies that Sukkot's joy honors God, not mere harvest success. The seven days signify completeness, reflecting creation's pattern and covenant wholeness.

Because the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thine increase, and in all the works of thine hands—The causal particle 'because' (כִּי) grounds commanded joy in God's blessing. 'All thine increase' (kol-tevuatacha, כָּל-תְּבוּאָתְךָ) means all your produce, while 'works of thine hands' (ma'aseh yadecha, מַעֲשֵׂה יָדָיו) encompasses all labor. God blesses both field's yield and human work—agriculture and craftsmanship alike. **Therefore thou shalt surely rejoice**—The emphatic construction (vehayita ach sameach, וְהָיָה אַחַךְ שָׂמֵחַ) literally means 'you shall be only/surely joyful.' Divine blessing demands joyful worship response.

Historical Context

This command assumes Israel's settled agricultural life in Canaan, contrasting with wilderness manna-dependence. The feast celebrates God's faithfulness from wilderness provision to Canaan's abundance. The repeated emphasis on joy (vv. 11,

14, 15) distinguishes Sukkot from the more solemn Day of Atonement (five days earlier). Jewish tradition labeled Sukkot 'the season of our joy' (zeman simchateinu). Nehemiah 8:13-18 records Sukkot's revival after exile, demonstrating its enduring significance in Jewish worship and identity.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing that both harvest and human labor are God-blessed change your perspective on work and provision?
2. In what ways should God's material blessings produce not complacency but joyful worship and generous sharing?

Interlinear Text

שִׁבְעַת יָמִים	תַּחֲג	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ
Seven	days	shalt thou keep a solemn feast	because the LORD thy God
H7651	H3117	H2287	H3068 H430
בַּמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר	יִבְחָר	יְהוָה	כִּי יְבָרֶכְךָ
in the place	H834	shall choose	because the LORD H3588 shall bless
H4725		H977	H3068 H1288
יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	בְּכָל לְ	תְבוֹאָתְךָ וּבְכָל
because the LORD	thy God	H3605	thee in all thine increase H3605
H3068	H430		H8393
מֵעֲשֵׂה הַ	יָדְךָ	וְהִי יִתֵּן	אֵלָּה
and in all the works	of thine hands	H1961	H389
H4639	H3027		
שָׂמֵחַ:			
therefore thou shalt surely rejoice			
H8056			

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 30:16 (Blessing): In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.

Deuteronomy 16:10 (Blessing): And thou shalt keep the feast of weeks unto the LORD thy God with a tribute of a freewill offering of thine hand, which thou shalt give unto the LORD thy God, according as the LORD thy God hath blessed thee:

Deuteronomy 7:13 (Blessing): And he will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: he will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which he swore unto thy fathers to give thee.

