

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 (תָּחֹג, 'you shall feast') comes from chagag, meaning to make a pilgrimage feast, to celebrate. The phrase 'unto the LORD' (לֵיהָה) 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-tevuatecha, כָּל-תְּבָב וְאַתְּבָב) means all your produce, while 'works of thine hands' (ma'aseh yadecha, מְעַשֵּׂה יָדֶךָ) 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, וְהִי יָתָה אֶחָד שָׁמֶךְ) 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

אֱלֹהִים יְהוָה שְׁבֻעָת
thy God because the LORD shall swear

שְׁבֻעָת יְהוָה שְׁבֻעָת
swear because the LORD shall swear

H3068 H430

וְיִבְרָכְךָ יְהוָה בְּפָנָיךְ וְאָשֶׁר
shall bless because the LORD shall choose

H1288 H3588

H4725 H834

וְבְכָל תְּבוֹאָתֶךָ יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה
in all thy increase because the LORD thy God thy God

H3605 H3608 H430

H3068 H8393

וְבְכָל מְעַשְׁךָ יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה
in all thy works because the LORD thy God thy God

H3605 H3068 H430

H8393 H1961 H389

שְׁמַמְּנָה:
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 sware unto thy fathers to give thee.

