

Deuteronomy 16:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Six days thou shalt eat unleavened bread: and on the seventh day shall be a solemn assembly to the LORD thy God: thou shalt do no work therein.

Analysis

But at the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name in, there thou shalt sacrifice the passover at even, at the going down of the sun, at the season that thou camest forth out of Egypt. Triple emphasis specifies the exact location (where God chooses), timing (evening/sunset), and season (anniversary of exodus). This precision demonstrates God's concern for proper worship according to His revealed will.

The phrase to place his name in indicates special divine presence and ownership. God's name represents His character and authority - where He places His name, He manifests His presence. The sanctuary was not mere human construction but the place where heaven met earth.

Sunset timing commemorated the actual hour of exodus - Israel left Egypt at night after the death of the firstborn. Annual observance at the precise anniversary maintained historical continuity between past deliverance and present memorial.

Reformed theology emphasizes the regulative principle of worship - God prescribes how He will be worshiped, and humans must not presume to innovate worship forms. We approach God on His terms, not our preferences.

Historical Context

Jerusalem eventually became the permanent location where God placed His name when Solomon built the temple. For nearly a thousand years, Jews made pilgrimage there for Passover until Rome destroyed the temple in AD 70.

Jesus' death at Passover fulfilled the feast's typology, transforming the memorial from annual ritual to accomplished fact remembered through the Lord's Supper.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does God's specification of location, timing, and season teach about worship precision?
2. How does the concept of God placing His name somewhere indicate special presence?
3. Why is historical accuracy important in memorial observances?
4. What is the regulative principle of worship, and how does this passage support it?
5. How does Christ's death at Passover transform our understanding of the feast?

Interlinear Text

הַשְּׁבִיעִי וַיְבִי אוֹם יַמֵּצוֹת לֹאכְל וַיְבִי אוֹם שֵׁשֶׁת
Six **day** **thou shalt eat** **unleavened bread** **day** **and on the seventh**
H8337 H3117 H398 H4682 H3117 H7637

תַּעֲשֶׂה לֹא אֱלֹהֶיךָ לִיהוָה עֲצָרֶת
shall be a solemn assembly **to the LORD** **thy God** H3808 **thou shalt do**
H6116 H3068 H430 H6213

מְלָאכָה:
no work
H4399