

Deuteronomy 16:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Seven weeks shalt thou number unto thee: begin to number the seven weeks from such time as thou beginnest to put the sickle to the corn.

Analysis

And thou shalt roast and eat it in the place which the LORD thy God shall choose: and thou shalt turn in the morning, and go unto thy tents. The roasting method (not boiling) preserved Passover's original form from the exodus night. Consistency in observance maintained connection across generations to the foundational deliverance event.

Eating in the place which the LORD thy God shall choose required remaining at the sanctuary for the feast rather than immediately returning home. This promoted extended worship fellowship and prevented treating Passover as mere ritual to be quickly completed.

The permission to turn in the morning, and go unto thy tents indicates the feast lasted into the night but did not require prolonged stay beyond the observance itself. God's commands are reasonable, not burdensome - requiring what is necessary for proper worship without unnecessary prolongation.

This balance between required observance and permitted return home demonstrates God's wisdom - maintaining worship standards while allowing normal life to resume.

Historical Context

Roasting the lamb whole on a spit replicated exodus night preparation when haste prevented boiling or elaborate cooking. This method became distinctly associated with Passover, distinguishing it from other sacrificial meals.

The central sanctuary provided accommodations for pilgrims during festivals. Many camped around Jerusalem during Passover week, creating large gatherings for worship and celebration.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Why was maintaining consistency with original exodus observance important?
2. How does eating at the sanctuary promote worship fellowship beyond mere ritual?
3. What does the balance between required observance and normal life teach about God's commands?
4. How do worship requirements demonstrate God's wisdom without being burdensome?
5. Why is it significant that Passover observance replicated the original exodus night preparations?

Interlinear Text

שָׁבַע הַ	שָׁבָעוֹת:	לְסָפָר	לְךָ	תֵּחֵל
Seven	weeks	shalt thou number	H0	from such time as thou beginnest
H7651	H7620	H5608		H2490
חֲרִיֹּם	בְּקֶמֶה הַ	תֵּחֵל לְ	לְסָפָר	
to put the sickle	to the corn	from such time as thou beginnest	shalt thou number	
H2770	H7054	H2490	H5608	
שָׁבַע הַ	שָׁבָעוֹת:			
Seven	weeks			
H7651	H7620			

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 23:16 (Parallel theme): And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field.

Exodus 34:22 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt observe the feast of weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the feast of ingathering at the year's end.

Acts 2:1 (Parallel theme): And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.