

Deuteronomy 22:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt not sow thy vineyard with divers seeds: lest the fruit of thy seed which thou hast sown, and the fruit of thy vineyard, be defiled.

Analysis

Thou shalt not sow thy vineyard with divers seeds—The Hebrew kil'ayim (divers kinds/mixed seeds) refers to forbidden mixture, violating created order.

Lest the fruit of thy seed which thou hast sown, and the fruit of thy vineyard, be defiled—Qadash (defiled/consecrated) here means 'become holy' in the technical sense of being set apart to the sanctuary, forfeited to God's exclusive use, unavailable for personal consumption.

This law symbolizes covenant separation—Israel must not mix with pagan nations or practices (Exodus 34:12-16). The principle extends beyond agriculture to every area of life: maintain distinctive holiness, avoid syncretism, preserve boundaries God established. Paul applies this in 2 Corinthians 6:14-17 ('unequally yoked') regarding spiritual compromise. The law taught Israel to see all of life through the lens of God's created order and covenant distinctiveness—even farming bore theological meaning.

Historical Context

This law was given to agricultural Israel entering Canaan (circa 1406 BC). Mixed planting was common in pagan agriculture, often connected to fertility cult rituals attempting to manipulate nature through magical mixture. Israel's distinctiveness extended even to farming practices, constantly reminding them of covenantal separation. Violation resulted in economic loss (forfeiture to sanctuary) and taught

that compromising God's order brings consequences. These laws cultivated a mindset of holiness in every sphere—nothing was 'secular,' all of life was lived before God.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do God's creation boundaries and order principles apply to contemporary issues of mixing what God has separated (e.g., truth and error, righteousness and lawlessness)?
2. What does this law teach about the importance of maintaining distinctiveness rather than conforming to surrounding cultural practices?

Interlinear Text

לֹא	תַּזְבִּעַ	עַ	הַכְּרָם:	כְּלֹא	אֵ	פָּנִים	תַּלְדוּ	שְׁ
H3808	Thou shalt not sow		H3754	with divers seeds	H3610		H6435	be defiled
	H2232				H3610		H6942	
בְּמַלְאָה	הַ	עַ	תַּזְבִּעַ	אֵשֶׁר	בְּ	כְּ	וְתַבֹּא	תְּ
lest	the	fruit	of	thy	seed		and	the
H4395		H2233		H834		H2232		H8393
								H3754

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 19:19 (Parallel theme): Ye shall keep my statutes. Thou shalt not let thy cattle gender with a diverse kind: thou shalt not sow thy field with mingled seed: neither shall a garment mingled of linen and woollen come upon thee.

2 Corinthians 11:3 (Parallel theme): But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Romans 11:6 (Parallel theme): And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

Matthew 9:16 (Parallel theme): No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse.

James 3:10 (Parallel theme): Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org