

Deuteronomy 5:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day.

Analysis

The redemptive grounding 'remember that thou wast a servant in Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out' connects Sabbath rest to exodus deliverance. Israel, once enslaved without rest, must grant rest to others. The phrase 'therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath' reveals that experiencing God's redemptive grace produces compassionate obedience. This illustrates gospel ethics: believers, redeemed from sin's bondage, extend mercy to others. Sabbath becomes both memorial of redemption and anticipation of eternal rest in Christ.

Historical Context

Egypt enslaved Israel approximately 400 years (Genesis 15:13) before God's deliverance through Moses (circa 1446 BC). Hebrew slaves labored continuously making bricks and mortar without rest (Exodus 5:6-19). God's deliverance through ten plagues, Passover, and Red Sea crossing freed Israel from this bondage. The Sabbath command constantly reminded Israel of their redemption, motivating compassion toward servants and strangers experiencing parallel bondage.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does remembering redemption from bondage motivate compassionate treatment of others, particularly the vulnerable?
2. In what ways should Christians' experience of redemption from sin's slavery through Christ shape how we treat and rest with those in our care?

Interlinear Text

וְזָכַרְתָּ	כִּי	עָבָדְתָּ	יְהוָה	בְּאֶרֶץ	מִצְרַיִם
And remember	H3588	that thou wast a servant	H1961	in the land	of Egypt
H2142		H5650		H776	H4714
וַיָּבִיאוּ	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	מִיֶּשֶׁעַ	בְּ	
brought	and that the LORD	thy God	H8033	hand	
H3318	H3068	H430		H3027	
מִן	הַ	זֶרֶעַ	וּבְזֶרַע	נְטוּיָה	עַל
thee out thence through a mighty		arm	and by a stretched out		
H2389		H2220	H5186		H5921 H3651
צִוָּה	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	לְעֵשׂוֹת	אֶת	יּוֹם
commanded	and that the LORD	thy God	thee to keep	H853	day
H6680	H3068	H430	H6213		H3117 H7676
					הַשַּׁבָּת
					the sabbath

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 5:6 (References God): I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

Deuteronomy 15:15 (References God): And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt, and the LORD thy God redeemed thee: therefore I command thee this thing to day.

Deuteronomy 16:12 (References Egypt): And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in Egypt: and thou shalt observe and do these statutes.

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