

Exodus 12:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And in the first day there shall be an holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be an holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, save that which every man must eat, that only may be done of you.

Analysis

The 'holy convocation' (miqra-qodesh, מִקְרָא־קֹדֶשׁ) means a sacred assembly where work ceases. Bracketing the feast with rest days (first and seventh) emphasizes that redemption leads to Sabbath rest. 'No manner of work' except food preparation teaches that while ceremony requires effort, salvation itself is received through rest, not works. This prefigures Christ's finished work.

Historical Context

Holy convocations required gathering at local synagogues (later) or family groups (earlier). The work prohibition set these days apart from ordinary festival days.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the work prohibition during redemption celebrations picture salvation by grace rather than human effort?
2. What does God's provision for necessary food preparation teach about balancing worship with practical life?

Interlinear Text

וַיּוֹם	הָרִאשׁוֹן	מִקְרָא	קִדְשׁ	וַיּוֹם		
day	And in the first	convocation	there shall be an holy	day		
H3117	H7223	H4744	H6944	H3117		
וּבַיּוֹם	הַשְּׁבִיעִי	מִקְרָא	קִדְשׁ	לָכֶם	יְהִי ה'	כָּל
and in the seventh	convocation	there shall be an holy	H1961	H0	H3605	
H7637	H4744	H6944				
מְלָאכָה	לֹא	יַעֲשׂוּ ה'	בְּהֶם	אֲנִי	אֲשֶׁר	
to you no manner of work	H3808	shall be done	H0	in them save	H834	
H4399		H6213		H389		
יֵאָכֵל ל'	לְכָל	נִפְּשׁ	וְהָוָה	לְבַדּוֹ	יַעֲשׂוּ ה'	לָכֶם:
must eat	H3605	that which every man	H1931	H905	shall be done	H0
H398		H5315			H6213	

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 28:18 (Holy): In the first day shall be an holy convocation; ye shall do no manner of servile work therein:

Exodus 16:23 (Holy): And he said unto them, This is that which the LORD hath said, To morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the LORD: bake that which ye will bake to day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning.

Numbers 28:25 (Holy): And on the seventh day ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work.

Exodus 16:29 (Parallel theme): See, for that the LORD hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.

Exodus 16:5 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.

Exodus 20:10 (Parallel theme): But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

Leviticus 23:21 (Holy): And ye shall proclaim on the selfsame day, that it may be an holy convocation unto you: ye shall do no servile work therein: it shall be a statute for ever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.

Leviticus 23:27 (Holy): Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

Leviticus 23:35 (Holy): On the first day shall be an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

Numbers 29:12 (Holy): And on the fifteenth day of the seventh month ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work, and ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: