

Exodus 12:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even.

Analysis

The specification 'fourteenth day...at even' until 'one and twentieth day...at even' defines precisely seven complete days. The phrase 'in the first month' (Abib/Nisan) permanently anchors this observance to the redemption anniversary. The meticulous timing reveals God's concern for exact obedience in worship, not casual approximation.

Historical Context

Reckoning days from evening to evening follows Hebrew timekeeping where days begin at sunset. This specific dating prevented confusion and ensured uniform observance throughout Israel.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God's concern for precise timing in worship challenge casualness in your own spiritual disciplines?
2. What does the fixed calendar date teach about grounding faith in historical events rather than subjective feelings?

Interlinear Text

בְּעָרְבָּה:	לְחֵדֶשׁ	וְלִי	בְּרָאֵשׁ	בְּאֶרְבָּעָה	בְּרָאֵשׁ
In the first	H702	month on the fourteenth	day	of the month	at even
	H7223		H6240	H3117	H6153
תַּאֲכַל וְ	מֵצָה	עַד	וְ	בְּאַפְתָּה	וְשָׁרֵךְ יְמִינָה
ye shall eat	unleavened bread	H5704	day	until the one	and twentieth
H398	H4682		H3117	H259	H6242
לְחֵדֶשׁ בְּעָרְבָּה:					
of the month	at even				
H2320	H6153				

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 12:15 (Parallel theme): Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel.