

Exodus 12:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land.

Analysis

The severity of the leaven prohibition—'that soul shall be cut off' (Hebrew 'karat,' כָּרַת—covenantal cutting off, excommunication or death)—shows the seriousness of mixing corruption with redemption. This applies to 'stranger' (ger, גֵּר—foreigner dwelling with Israel) and 'born in the land' equally, showing that covenant membership, not ethnicity, determines standing before God.

Historical Context

Being 'cut off' meant exclusion from the covenant community, possibly including capital punishment. This severe penalty for such a seemingly minor offense indicates leaven's symbolic importance.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the severity of punishment for leaven illustrate God's intolerance for sin mixed with salvation?
2. What does the equal application to native and foreigner teach about salvation by grace through faith rather than ethnicity?

Interlinear Text

שִׁבְעַת יָמִים	שָׁאֵר	לֹא יִמָּצֵא	בְּבֵתֶיכֶם	כִּי יִן
Seven	shall there be no leaven	found	in your houses	
H7651	H3117	H3808	H4672	H3588
כָּל	אֲכֹל	מִחֶמֶת צֶת	הֵן פֶּשֶׁ	הֵהוּא
H3605	for whosoever eateth	shall be cut off	even that soul	H1931
	H398	H2557	H5315	
מֵעֵד ת	יִשְׂרָאֵל	בִּגֵּר	וּבְאֶזְכְּחֵ	הָאָרֶץ:
from the congregation	of Israel	whether he be a stranger	or born	in the land
H5712	H3478	H1616	H249	H776

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 12:15 (References Israel): 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.

Exodus 23:15 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:)

Deuteronomy 16:3 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt eat no leavened bread with it; seven days shalt thou eat unleavened bread therewith, even the bread of affliction; for thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt in haste: that thou mayest remember the day when thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of thy life.

Exodus 12:48 (Parallel theme): And when a stranger shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land: for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof.

Exodus 34:18 (Parallel theme): The feast of unleavened bread shalt thou keep. Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, as I commanded thee, in the time of the month Abib: for in the month Abib thou camest out from Egypt.

Numbers 9:13 (Parallel theme): But the man that is clean, and is not in a journey, and forbeareth to keep the passover, even the same soul shall be cut off from among his people: because he brought not the offering of the LORD in his appointed season, that man shall bear his sin.

Exodus 12:43 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto Moses and Aaron, This is the ordinance of the passover: There shall no stranger eat thereof: