

Exodus 12:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And a mixed multitude went up also with them; and flocks, and herds, even very much cattle.

Analysis

The 'mixed multitude' (erev rav, עֶרֶב רַב) were non-Israelites—Egyptians and others who joined the exodus after witnessing God's power. Their inclusion shows redemption extends beyond ethnic Israel to all who believe. The 'flocks, and herds, even very much cattle' represent wealth and provision for the journey. This mixed assembly prefigures the church—Jews and Gentiles united in faith.

Historical Context

Mixed multitudes often caused problems (Numbers 11:4), yet God permitted them to join. This demonstrates that covenant membership came through faith and identification with Israel, not pure bloodline.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the mixed multitude's inclusion anticipate the gospel breaking ethnic boundaries to include all believers?

2. What responsibilities come with publicly identifying yourself with God's people by joining their journey?

Interlinear Text

וְגַם	עַרְבִּי	רַב	עָלָה	אִתָּם	וְצִאן
H1571	And a mixed	multitude	went up	H854	also with them and flocks
	H6154	H7227	H5927		H6629
וּבְקָרָה	מִקְלָה	כִּי	מְאֹד:		
and herds	cattle	much	even very		
H1241	H4735	H3515	H3966		

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 11:4 (Parallel theme): And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?

Zechariah 8:23 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.