

Exodus 12:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.

Analysis

The proportional allocation ('according to his eating') demonstrates God's concern for practical provision—neither waste nor want. The Hebrew 'mikhsat' (מִכְסַּת) means a reckoning or counting, requiring families to calculate their needs. This communal sharing prefigures both the church's fellowship meals and the Lord's Supper where all partake equally.

Historical Context

Small families in ancient Israel would naturally join with neighbors for major meals. This provision ensured no household was excluded from Passover due to size.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the principle of 'according to eating' guard against both excess and exclusion in Christian fellowship?
2. In what ways can you share spiritual blessings with those whose 'households are too small' to partake alone?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵם H518	יָמַעַ ט H4591	בֵּית ו' H1004	מְהִי וְת H1961	הַשָּׂה: H7716	וְלָקַח H3947	וְאֵם H1931
	too little	And if the household	be	for the lamb	take	
	וְשָׁכֵן ו' H7934	אֶל הַקָּרֵב H7138	בֵּית ו' H413			
	let him and his neighbour	next	And if the household			
	בְּמִכְסָּת H4373	נֶפֶשׁ ת' H5315	אֵשׁ H376	לְפִי H6310	אֲכָל ו' H400	
	it according to the number	of the souls	every man	according	to his eating	
	תַּכּ סו' H3699	עַל H5921	הַשָּׂה: H7716			
	shall make your count		for the lamb			

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