

Exodus 12:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It is a night to be much observed unto the LORD for bringing them out from the land of Egypt: this is that night of the LORD to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations.

Analysis

This night is 'much to be observed' (leil shimurim, לַיִל שְׁמֹרִים—a night of watching). God 'watched' to bring them out; Israel must 'observe' by remembering. The reciprocal watching creates a memorial where both divine vigilance and human remembrance meet. The phrase 'throughout their generations' ensures perpetual commemoration. This night becomes Israel's defining moment, annually re-experienced.

Historical Context

This verse establishes Passover night as the most significant date in Jewish calendar. The 'night to be remembered' created a liturgical center around which Israel's worship year revolved.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing that God 'watched' for you during your redemption deepen appreciation for His saving work?
2. What specific ways do you 'observe' the anniversary of your conversion or spiritual milestones?

Interlinear Text

הַלַּיְלָה	שָׁמַר יָם	הוא	לַיהוָה	לְהוֹצִיאַם	
It is a night	to be much observed	H1931	of the LORD	for bringing	
H3915	H8107		H3068	H3318	
מֵאֶרֶץ	מִמִּצְרַיִם	הוא	הַלַּיְלָה	הַזֶּה	לַיהוָה
them out from the land	of Egypt	H1931	It is a night	H2088	of the LORD
H776	H4714		H3915		H3068
שָׁמַר יָם	לְכָל	בְּנֵי יִ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	לְדֹרֹתָם:	
to be much observed	H3605	of all the children	of Israel	in their generations	
H8107		H1121	H3478	H1755	

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 12:14 (References Lord): And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.

Exodus 13:10 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt therefore keep this ordinance in his season from year to year.