

Exodus 12:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto Moses and Aaron, This is the ordinance of the passover: There shall no stranger eat thereof:

Analysis

The LORD's 'ordinance of the passover' (chukat hapesach, חֻקַת הַפֵּסֶח) begins defining participation boundaries. 'No stranger shall eat thereof'—the Hebrew 'ben nekar' (בֶּן-נָקָר) means foreign son, one outside the covenant. This exclusivity protects the sacredness of covenant signs. While grace extends to all who believe, covenant privileges require covenant membership. This principle continues in Christian baptism and communion.

Historical Context

This restriction prevented Passover from becoming a generic feast where casual observers participated without covenant commitment. It maintained the meal's sacred character.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the exclusivity of covenant meals protect the sacredness of fellowship with God?
2. What does restricting participation to covenant members teach about the church's practice of guarded communion?

Interlinear Text

זאת תרומה ליהו אל משה מושך ואברהם
said And the LORD unto Moses and Aaron
H559 H3068 H413 H4872 H175 H2063

לא יהיה רוצח כל פסח בזאת תרומה
This is the ordinance of the passover There shall no stranger
H2708 H6453 H3605 H1121 H5236 H3808

בון יאכל
eat H0
H398

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 12:48 (References Lord): 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.

Numbers 9:14 (References Lord): And if a stranger shall sojourn among you, and will keep the passover unto the LORD; according to the ordinance of the passover, and according to the manner thereof, so shall he do: ye shall have one ordinance, both for the stranger, and for him that was born in the land.

Exodus 12:11 (References Lord): And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover.

