

Exodus 12:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A foreigner and an hired servant shall not eat thereof.

Analysis

The exclusion of 'foreigner' (toshav, תֹּשֶׁב—temporary resident) and 'hired servant' (sachir, שָׁכֵיר—day laborer) distinguishes between committed covenant members and those temporarily present. These categories lacked permanent commitment to Israel and thus couldn't participate in covenant meals. The principle: covenant privileges require covenant membership. Casual association doesn't grant sacramental participation.

Historical Context

Ancient Israel distinguished between resident aliens with permanent status and temporary workers. Only those demonstrating lasting commitment to YHWH gained full covenant privileges.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does restricting participation to committed members challenge modern 'open table' practices in churches?

2. What does requiring permanent commitment before covenant meals teach about the seriousness of sacred fellowship?

Interlinear Text

בָּנִים וְאֶכְלָל לֹא יִשְׁכַּן יְרֵא תֹּושֵׁב
A foreigner and an hired servant shall not eat
H8453 H7916 H3808 H398 H0

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 22:10 (Parallel theme): There shall no stranger eat of the holy thing: a sojourner of the priest, or an hired servant, shall not eat of the holy thing.

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