

Exodus 12:48

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The provision for 'strangers' (ger, גֶּרֶת—resident alien) to join through circumcision demonstrates gracious inclusion. Circumcision served as the covenant entrance sign—faith made visible through obedience. After circumcision, the former stranger becomes 'as one that is born in the land,' enjoying equal status. This gracious inclusion prefigures gospel truth: faith in Christ, marked by baptism, makes all believers equal covenant members regardless of background.

Historical Context

This provision allowed Egyptians and others who witnessed the exodus to join Israel through circumcision. It created a legal path for Gentile inclusion in the covenant community.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the equal standing of circumcised strangers anticipate the gospel breaking down ethnic barriers?
2. What does requiring the covenant sign before participation teach about visible profession preceding covenant privileges?

Interlinear Text

לְעֵשֶׂת וְלַעֲשֹׂת אֶת־פֶּסְחָן
the passover and keep And when a stranger
H6453 H6213 H1616 H854
shall sojourn יְהִי וְרַגְלָה
H1481 יְהִי וְרַגְלָה
H3588

לְיְהִי־
to the LORD be circumcised
H3068 H4135
H0 H3605
let all his males
H2145 H227

פָּאֵץ כִּי־
it and he shall be as one that is born
H249 H1961
and then let him come near
H7126
and keep
H6213

בָּוּ: וְאָכַל בָּאָכֵז
shall eat H3808 H0
for no uncircumcised person
H6189
in the land H3605
H776

Additional Cross-References

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.

Colossians 3:11 (Parallel theme): Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

Exodus 12:43 (References Lord): And the LORD said unto Moses and Aaron, This is the ordinance of the passover: There shall no stranger eat thereof:

Exodus 12:19 (Parallel theme): Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land.

Galatians 3:28 (Parallel theme): There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Ezekiel 47:22 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, that ye shall divide it by lot for an inheritance unto you, and to the strangers that sojourn among you, which shall beget children among you: and they shall be unto you as born in the country among the children of Israel; they shall have inheritance with you among the tribes of Israel.

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