

Exodus 12:49

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

One law shall be to him that is homeborn, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among you.

Analysis

The declaration 'One law shall be to him that is homeborn, and unto the stranger' establishes equality before God's law. Hebrew 'torah achat' (תּוֹרָה אַחַת—one law) means no double standards—native and convert face identical requirements and receive identical privileges. This principle demolishes ethnic superiority and establishes grace-based covenant membership. Paul later develops this: in Christ there's neither Jew nor Greek (Galatians 3:28).

Historical Context

This equality contrasted sharply with surrounding nations where ethnic identity determined religious access. Israel's openness to covenant converts while maintaining high standards was distinctive.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does 'one law' for all believers challenge any sense of spiritual superiority based on heritage or background?

2. What does equal law for native and stranger teach about the impartiality of divine grace?

Interlinear Text

הַחֹק	אֶחָד	יְהוָה	לְאִזְכּוֹחַ	וְלַזָּר
law	One	H1961	shall be to him that is homeborn	and unto the stranger
H8451	H259		H249	H1616
הַזָּר	בְּתוֹכְכֶם:			
that sojourneth	among			
H1481	H8432			

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 15:29 (Word): Ye shall have one law for him that sinneth through ignorance, both for him that is born among the children of Israel, and for the stranger that sojourneth among them.

Leviticus 24:22 (Word): Ye shall have one manner of law, as well for the stranger, as for one of your own country: for I am the LORD your God.

Numbers 9:14 (Parallel theme): 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.