

Exodus 12:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

Analysis

The Hebrew 'ben ha'arbayim' (בֵּין הַעֲרָבִים) literally means 'between the evenings,' referring to the time between the sun's decline and sunset (approximately 3-6 PM). The requirement that 'the whole assembly' participate emphasizes corporate responsibility—every household shares in the sacrificial death. Christ died at the ninth hour (3 PM, Mark 15:34), precisely during Passover preparation.

Historical Context

The fourteenth of Abib placed Passover at the full moon, providing maximum light for the nighttime exodus. The corporate slaughter meant hundreds of thousands of lambs were killed simultaneously throughout Goshen.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the timing of Christ's death at Passover reveal God's meticulous orchestration of redemptive history?

2. What does the whole assembly's participation teach about the church's corporate identification with Christ's death?

Interlinear Text

וְיִהְיֶה בְּיֹם הַזֶּה לְמִשְׁמָרָת H1961 H0	לְמִשְׁמָרָת H4931	עַד H5704	עַד H702	אַרְבָּעָה H6240	וְיִהְיֶה H3117
And ye shall keep H4931		it up until the fourteenth H702			
of the same month H2320	H2088	shall kill H7819	H853	and the whole H3605	assembly H6951
of the congregation H5712	H3478	it in H996	H6153	the evening H6153	

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 23:5 (Parallel theme): In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD'S passover.

Numbers 28:16 (Parallel theme): And in the fourteenth day of the first month is the passover of the LORD.

Exodus 12:18 (Parallel theme): In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even.

Numbers 9:11 (Parallel theme): The fourteenth day of the second month at even they shall keep it, and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

Acts 4:27 (References Israel): For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,

Exodus 16:12 (References Israel): I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God.

Ezekiel 45:21 (Parallel theme): In the first month, in the fourteenth day of the month, ye shall have the passover, a feast of seven days; unleavened bread shall be eaten.

Mark 15:25 (Parallel theme): And it was the third hour, and they crucified him.

Mark 15:1 (Parallel theme): And straightway in the morning the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council, and bound Jesus, and carried him away, and delivered him to Pilate.

Mark 15:8 (Parallel theme): And the multitude crying aloud began to desire him to do as he had ever done unto them.