

Exodus 13:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the LORD'S law may be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath the LORD brought thee out of Egypt.

Analysis

The imagery 'for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes' uses bodily placement metaphorically—constant remembrance affecting action (hand) and thought (eyes/forehead). Though later Judaism literalized this with phylacteries (tefillin), the primary meaning is comprehensive orientation of life around redemption. 'The LORD's law may be in thy mouth' means redemption shapes speech and confession.

Historical Context

Later Jewish practice bound small boxes containing Scripture verses to forehead and hand during prayer. While Jesus criticized ostentation (Matthew 23:5), the practice attempted literal obedience to this verse.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How can you keep redemption's truth constantly before your mind without falling into empty ritualism?
2. What does having God's law 'in thy mouth' teach about confession and verbal testimony's importance?

Interlinear Text

בְּ יָמִים וּבְיָמִים	לֹבֶן	לֹא וְתָעַל	בְּ יָד עַל	וְלִזְכָּרוֹן	בְּ יָמִים
H1961	H0	And it shall be for a sign	H5921	hand	and for a memorial
		H226		H3027	H2146
between thine eyes	H4616	H1961	law	hath the LORD	
H5869			H8451	H3068	
may be in thy mouth	H3588	hand	for with a strong	brought thee out	
H6310		H3027	H2389	H3318	
hath the LORD	H4714	of Egypt			
H3068					

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 6:8 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

Exodus 13:16 (References Lord): And it shall be for a token upon thine hand, and for frontlets between thine eyes: for by strength of hand the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt.

Numbers 15:39 (Word): And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring:

Exodus 12:14 (References Lord): And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.

Isaiah 59:21 (Word): As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.

Romans 10:8 (Word): But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

Matthew 23:5 (Parallel theme): But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,

Exodus 13:3 (References Lord): And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten.

Deuteronomy 30:14 (Word): But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.