

Exodus 22:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt not delay to offer the first of thy ripe fruits, and of thy liquors: the firstborn of thy sons shalt thou give unto me.

Analysis

Thou shalt not delay to offer the first of thy ripe fruits, and of thy liquors: the firstborn of thy sons shalt thou give unto me.

'First of ripe fruits' (מֵלֶאֱתָכָה וְדִמְעָה, mele'atekha vedim'akha) means 'fullness and flow'—grain harvest and wine/oil. 'Not delay' (לֹא תֵאַחַר, lo te'achar)—prompt offering shows trust in God's provision. 'Firstborn of thy sons' (בְּכוֹר בְּנֶיךָ, bechor banekha) will be 'given' (redeemed, not sacrificed)—Israel never practiced child sacrifice (Leviticus 18:21 bans it). The principle: God gets first and best, not leftovers. This tests trust—will you give from the first without knowing if more will come? The New Testament applies this: 'seek first the kingdom' (Matthew 6:33), give 'firstfruits' (1 Corinthians 15:20, Christ; James 1:18, believers).

Historical Context

Firstfruits offering predates Sinai (Cain and Abel). Unlike pagan child sacrifice, Israel redeemed firstborn sons (Exodus 13:13, 34:20) with money or substitutionary animals. The law sanctified the principle while rejecting pagan practice.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Why does God require firstfruits rather than allowing us to give from leftovers?
2. How does giving first (before seeing the rest) demonstrate faith in God's provision?

Interlinear Text

מִלְאֲתֶיךָ	וְדִמְעֶיךָ	לֹא	תִאָּחֵר
to offer the first of thy ripe fruits	and of thy liquors	H3808	Thou shalt not delay
H4395	H1831		H309
בְּכֹרֹת	בְּנֵי יֶלֶד	תִּתֶּן	לִי:
the firstborn	of thy sons	shalt thou give	H0
H1060	H1121	H5414	

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 23:16 (Parallel theme): And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field.

Exodus 13:2 (Parallel theme): Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine.

Exodus 23:19 (Parallel theme): The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring into the house of the LORD thy God. Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk.

Exodus 13:12 (Parallel theme): That thou shalt set apart unto the LORD all that openeth the matrix, and every firstling that cometh of a beast which thou hast; the males shall be the LORD'S.

Matthew 6:33 (Parallel theme): But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

James 1:18 (Parallel theme): Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Romans 8:23 (Parallel theme): And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Micah 7:1 (Parallel theme): Woe is me! for I am as when they have gathered the summer fruits, as the grape gleanings of the vintage: there is no cluster to eat: my soul desired the firstripe fruit.

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