

Exodus 23:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:)

Analysis

Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:)

Israel's festival calendar (Passover, Weeks, Tabernacles) celebrated God's provision and redemption. The appointed times (*מָוֶעֶדים*, mo'adim) gathered covenant people to remember God's faithfulness and anticipate future fulfillment. Festivals combined worship, rest, and fellowship—integrating spiritual and social life. These celebrations typologically point to Christ: Passover (His sacrifice), Weeks/Pentecost (Spirit's outpouring), Tabernacles (God dwelling with us). Christian worship continues this pattern of remembrance and anticipation.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern religions held seasonal festivals, but Israel's feasts distinctly commemorated historical redemption (exodus) rather than merely agricultural cycles. The festivals reinforced covenant identity across generations.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does this law reveal God's character—His justice, mercy, or holiness?
2. What New Testament principles build upon or fulfill this Old Testament regulation?

Interlinear Text

אַתָּה	מְצָה	וְתִשְׁמַר	שְׁבֻעָת	יְמִים
H853	the feast	of unleavened bread	Thou shalt keep	seven
H2282		H4682	H8104	H7651
תְּאַכֵּל	מְצָה	רְאֵשֶׁת	צְוָותִיךְ	days
thou shalt eat	of unleavened bread	H834	as I commanded	H3117
H398		H4682		H6680
לְמַזְעֵד	חַדְשָׁה	בְּאַבְיב	בְּזִבְחָן	
thee in the time appointed	of the month	Abib	H3588	H0
H4150		H2320		
וְאַתָּה	מִמִּצְבָּה	וְאַל	וְיכָא	פָּנֶיךָ
for in it thou camest out	from Egypt	H3808	and none shall appear	before
H3318		H4714	H7200	H6440
רִיקָם:				
me empty				
H7387				

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 34:20 (Parallel theme): But the firstling of an ass thou shalt redeem with a lamb: and if thou redeem him not, then shalt thou break his neck. All the firstborn of thy sons thou shalt redeem. And none shall appear before me empty.

Luke 22:7 (Parallel theme): Then came the day of unleavened bread, when the passover must be killed.

Deuteronomy 16:16 (Parallel theme): Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty:

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org