

Exodus 24:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And upon the nobles of the children of Israel he laid not his hand: also they saw God, and did eat and drink.

Analysis

And upon the nobles of the children of Israel he laid not his hand: also they saw God, and did eat and drink.

'He laid not His hand' (לֹא שָׁלַח יָדו, lo shalach yado)—God didn't strike them dead despite seeing Him. This is mercy emphasized—normally seeing God kills (Exodus 33:20, Judges 13:22). 'They saw God, and did eat and drink' (וַיַּרְא אֶת־בָּאָלֹהִים וַיַּאֲכִלוּ, vayevera et-ha'Elohim vayokhelu vayishtu)—covenant meal in God's presence. Eating together seals covenant (Genesis 31:54); here they dine with God. This prefigures Messianic banquet (Isaiah 25:6, Matthew 8:11, Revelation 19:9). They commune with God through meal—fellowship mediated by blood sacrifice. The gospel grants perpetual access: Christ invites 'sup with me' (Revelation 3:20); we feast with Him.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern covenant ceremonies included shared meals symbolizing fellowship and alliance. Israel's covenant meal in God's presence is unique—they dine with deity Himself. The Last Supper and Lord's Supper continue this covenant meal pattern.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does eating and drinking in God's presence symbolize about covenant relationship?
2. How does this covenant meal prefigure the Lord's Supper and the Messianic banquet?

Interlinear Text

וְאֶל	בְּנֵי	אֶצְבָּעַל	שָׁלַח		
H413 And upon the nobles	H1121 of the children	H3478 of Israel	H3808 he laid		
H678			H7971		
וְאֶת	יְמִינָה	וְאֶת	וְאֶת		
not his hand	also they saw	H853	God	and did eat	and drink
H3027	H2372		H430	H398	H8354

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 18:12 (References God): And Jethro, Moses' father in law, took a burnt offering and sacrifices for God: and Aaron came, and all the elders of Israel, to eat bread with Moses' father in law before God.

Exodus 19:21 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto Moses, Go down, charge the people, lest they break through unto the LORD to gaze, and many of them perish.

Genesis 31:54 (Parallel theme): Then Jacob offered sacrifice upon the mount, and called his brethren to eat bread: and they did eat bread, and tarried all night in the mount.

Genesis 16:13 (References God): And she called the name of the LORD that spake unto her, Thou God seest me: for she said, Have I also here looked after him that seeth me?

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