

Exodus 31:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Analysis

The Sabbath is a sign between God and Israel forever, reminding them that the LORD sanctifies them. Sabbath-keeping testified to creation (God rested on the seventh day) and sanctification (God sets apart His people). Sabbath rest prefigures the spiritual rest believers find in Christ—ceasing from self-effort, trusting His finished work (Hebrews 4:9-10). Violating the Sabbath incurred death, showing that rejecting God's rest is spiritual death.

Historical Context

The Sabbath command's placement after tabernacle instructions (before construction began) emphasized that even sacred work must pause for sacred rest. God's people rest in His timing, not working constantly even for holy purposes.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Sabbath rest prefigure ceasing from self-effort and resting in Christ's finished work?
2. What does the severity of Sabbath violation teach about rejecting God's rest?

Interlinear Text

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|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| לֵאמֹר: | יְהוָה | אֶל | מֹשֶׁה | לֵאמֹר: |
| saying | And the LORD | <small>H413</small> | unto Moses | saying |
| <small>H559</small> | <small>H3068</small> | | <small>H4872</small> | <small>H559</small> |

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