

Exodus 31:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you.

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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

אָמַר לְאַתָּה בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אָל תְּבַרֵּא אֶת הַ
H859 Speak H413 thou also unto the children H1121
H1696 of Israel H3478 saying H559 Verily H389

וְיִרְאֶה בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲתָּה שְׁבָתָתִי רְאֵה
H853 my sabbaths H7676 ye shall keep H8104
H3588 for it is a sign H226
H1931 H996 H996

לְדִרְךָ תִּרְאֶה בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְדִעָת
between me and you throughout your generations that ye may know H1755 H3045
H3588 H589

מַקְדָּשָׁכֶם יְהִי הָאֱלֹהִים
that I am the LORD that doth sanctify H3068 H6942

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 20:12 (References Lord): Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them.

Ezekiel 20:20 (References Lord): And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (References Lord): And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Leviticus 19:30 (References Lord): Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD.

Exodus 31:17 (References Lord): It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.

Leviticus 20:8 (References Lord): And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I am the LORD which sanctify you.

John 17:17 (Parallel theme): Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Ezekiel 44:24 (Parallel theme): And in controversy they shall stand in judgment; and they shall judge it according to my judgments: and they shall keep my laws and my statutes in all mine assemblies; and they shall hallow my sabbaths.

Leviticus 19:3 (References Lord): Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep my sabbaths: I am the LORD your God.

Nehemiah 9:14 (Parallel theme): And madest known unto them thy holy sabbath, and commandedst them precepts, statutes, and laws, by the hand of Moses thy servant: