

Exodus 35:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day there shall be to you an holy day, a sabbath of rest to the LORD: whosoever doeth work therein shall be put to death.

Analysis

The Sabbath command precedes tabernacle construction, establishing that even the holiest work must not violate God's rest principle. The Hebrew structure emphasizes 'six days' (שְׁשָׁת יָמִים, sheshet yamim) for work and 'the seventh day' (יְמִין הַשְׁבִּיעִי, ha-yom ha-shevi'i) as קָדֵש (kodesh, holy) to the LORD. This order of priorities teaches that worship precedes work, being precedes doing, and relationship with God supersedes even building His dwelling place.

Historical Context

This reiteration of Sabbath law (see 31:12-17) was necessary because tabernacle construction might tempt workers to labor continuously. Ancient Near Eastern temple construction often involved relentless work, but Israel's pattern distinctly honors sacred rest.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Why does God place Sabbath-keeping before the most sacred work of building His dwelling?
2. How does the principle of rest before work challenge contemporary approaches to ministry and Christian service?

Interlinear Text

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|-----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| וְיִהְיֶה | הַשְׁבִיעִי | וְיִהְיֶה | שְׁשַׁת | וְיִהְיֶה | הַבָּעֵשׂ | וְיִהְיֶה | מְלָאכָה | וְיִהְיֶה | וְיִהְיֶה | וְיִהְיֶה |
| Six | day | be done | shall work | day | | | but on the seventh | | | H1961 |
| H8337 | H3117 | H6213 | H4399 | H3117 | | | H7637 | | | |

לְכָל שְׁבַת וְיְהִי הַשְׁבַת תְּרוּמָה קְדֻשָּׁה
H3605 to the LORD H3068 H7677 H7676 H6944 there shall be to you an holy day

וְבָרְאָתָה מְלָאָכָה בְּזַעַם יְמִינָתְךָ

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 23:3 (Holy): Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.

Exodus 34:21 (Parallel theme): Six days thou shalt work, but on the seventh day thou shalt rest: in earing time and in harvest thou shalt rest.

Exodus 23:12 (Parallel theme): Six days thou shalt do thy work, and on the seventh day thou shalt rest: that thine ox and thine ass may rest, and the son of thy handmaid, and the stranger, may be refreshed.