

Ezekiel 20:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

'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.' The Sabbath as covenant sign, marking Israel as God's sanctified people. 'Sign between me and them' distinguishes Israel from nations. 'That they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them' emphasizes divine action—God sanctifies, making them holy. Sabbath observance demonstrates trust in God's provision and acknowledges Him as Creator and Redeemer.

Historical Context

Sabbath observance originated at creation (Genesis 2:2-3), was renewed at the exodus (Exodus 16), and formalized in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:8-11, Deuteronomy 5:12-15). Sabbath distinguished Israel from surrounding nations who observed different calendars and festivals. Post-exilic Judaism emphasized Sabbath as covenant identity marker.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does Sabbath teach about rest, worship, and trust in God's provision?
2. How do Christians observe the principle of Sabbath while fulfilling its reality in Christ?

Interlinear Text

אֶת וְגַם	שַׁבָּתוֹתַי	נָתַתִּי	לְהִי וְלֵאמֹר
H1571 H853	them my sabbaths	Moreover also I gave	H0 H1961
	H7676	H5414	
לֵאמֹר וְלֵאמֹר	בֵּינִי וּבֵינֵיהֶם	לֵדַע	כִּי
to be a sign	H996 H996	between me and them that they might know	H3588
H226		H3045	
אֲנִי יְהוָה	מְקַדְּשֵׁם:		
H589	that I am the LORD	that sanctify	
	H3068	H6942	

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 37:28 (References Lord): And the heathen shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore.

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.

Leviticus 21:23 (References Lord): Only he shall not go in unto the vail, nor come nigh unto the altar, because he hath a blemish; that he profane not my sanctuaries: for I the LORD do sanctify them.

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.

