

Hebrews 9:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.

Analysis

These regulations concerned 'only food and drink, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation.' The Greek 'diorthōseōs' (reformation/setting straight) indicates the new order Christ inaugurated. The old covenant dealt with external, physical matters; the new covenant reforms the heart. These rituals served until Christ came; now they're obsolete (8:13), having served their preparatory purpose.

Historical Context

The extensive food laws, purity regulations, and ritual washings (Leviticus) governed Israel's daily life, maintaining separation from surrounding nations and teaching holiness. Christ declared all foods clean (Mark 7:19), fulfilling and ending these ceremonial distinctions.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What purpose did the food laws and washing rituals serve, and why are they no longer binding on Christians?
2. How does the 'reformation' Christ brought change your relationship to religious ritual and regulation?

Interlinear Text

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|------------------|------------|-------------|--------|---------------|----------|-----------|
| μόνον | ἐπὶ | βρώμασιν | καὶ | πόμασιν | καὶ | διαφόροις |
| Which stood only | in | meats | and | drinks | and | divers |
| G3440 | G1909 | G1033 | G2532 | G4188 | G2532 | G1313 |
| βαπτισμοῖς | καὶ | δικαιώμασιν | σαρκὸς | μέχρι | καιροῦ | |
| washings | and | ordinances | carnal | on them until | the time | |
| G909 | G2532 | G1345 | G4561 | G3360 | G2540 | |
| διορθώσεως | ἐπικείμενα | | | | | |
| of reformation | imposed | | | | | |
| G1357 | G1945 | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 2:16 (Parallel theme): Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

Hebrews 7:16 (Parallel theme): Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.

Ephesians 2:15 (Parallel theme): Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

Leviticus 16:24 (Parallel theme): And he shall wash his flesh with water in the holy place, and put on his garments, and come forth, and offer his burnt offering, and the burnt offering of the people, and make an atonement for himself, and for the people.

Hebrews 10:22 (Parallel theme): Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Ezekiel 4:14 (Parallel theme): Then said I, Ah Lord GOD! behold, my soul hath not been polluted: for from my youth up even till now have I not eaten of that which dieth of itself, or is torn in pieces; neither came there abominable flesh into my mouth.

Hebrews 2:5 (Parallel theme): For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak.

Hebrews 6:5 (Parallel theme): And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

Exodus 40:12 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt bring Aaron and his sons unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and wash them with water.

Deuteronomy 23:11 (Parallel theme): But it shall be, when evening cometh on, he shall wash himself with water: and when the sun is down, he shall come into the camp again.