

Jeremiah 7:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I spake not unto your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices:

Analysis

God declares, 'For I spake not unto your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices.' This striking statement doesn't deny that Levitical law prescribed sacrifices, but rather emphasizes priority: the foundational command was obedience, not ritual. The sacrificial system was given in the context of covenant relationship based on obedience. This verse teaches that God's primary concern has always been heart obedience rather than external religious performance. Sacrifices were means to express covenant faithfulness, not substitutes for it.

Historical Context

The Exodus generation received the Ten Commandments before the detailed sacrificial laws. The moral law preceded and provided the foundation for the ceremonial law, showing God's priorities.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do we maintain the biblical balance between proper worship forms and heart obedience?
2. What does this verse teach about the relationship between moral law and ceremonial law?
3. How can we ensure religious practices serve genuine faith rather than replace it?

Interlinear Text

אָתָּה דָּבַר רָתַי לֹא כִּי
H3588 H3808 For I speak H1696 H854 not unto your fathers H1
צִוְּתִים יְמִינָה אֲבֹתֵיכֶם וְלֹא אָמַר כִּי
H3808 H6680 nor commanded H5921
עַל מִצְרַיִם מִאָתָּה כִּי זֶה אֲוֹתָם
H776 H4714 of the land of Egypt H5921
בַּיּוֹם הַזֶּה שֶׁבַי הַזֶּה
H3117 H3318 H853
מִצְרַיִם כִּי זֶה אֲוֹתָם
H1697 H5930 H2077
עַל מִצְרַיִם מִצְרַיִם כִּי זֶה אֲוֹתָם
H3808 H6680 H5921
דְּבָרִים
H2077
תִּזְבְּחָה: עֹלֵל הַדְּבָרִים
concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 6:6 (Sacrifice): For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

1 Samuel 15:22 (Sacrifice): And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

Psalms 40:6 (Sacrifice): Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required.

Matthew 9:13 (Sacrifice): But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Mark 12:33 (Sacrifice): And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

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