

# Leviticus 23:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ye shall proclaim on the selfsame day, that it may be an holy convocation unto you: ye shall do no servile work therein: it shall be a statute for ever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.

## Analysis

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**And ye shall proclaim on the selfsame day, that it may be an holy convocation unto you: ye shall do no servile work therein: it shall be a statute for ever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.**

This verse falls within the section on **Appointed Feasts**. God's sacred calendar including Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles, marking redemption and agricultural blessings.

The central theme of Leviticus is God's holiness and the call for His people to be holy. The Hebrew word *qadosh* (קֹדֶשׁ) means 'set apart' or 'sacred,' emphasizing both separation from sin and consecration to God's purposes.

The New Testament reveals that Christ's sacrifice accomplishes what the Levitical system could only symbolize—complete forgiveness and restoration of relationship with God.

## Historical Context

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God's sacred calendar including Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles, marking redemption and agricultural blessings. Chapters 17-27, often called the 'Holiness Code,' expand covenant obligations beyond ritual to encompass all of life—

sexuality, economics, justice, and relationships. The repeated refrain 'I am the LORD' grounds these laws in God's character and covenant relationship with Israel. Israel received these laws while encamped at Sinai, before entering Canaan. The laws prepared them for life in the promised land, distinguishing them from Canaanite practices and establishing their identity as God's holy nation. The portable tabernacle, central to Levitical worship, accompanied them through wilderness wanderings and eventually found permanent form in Solomon's temple. Ancient sacrificial texts from cultures surrounding Israel demonstrate the widespread practice of animal sacrifice, but Israel's system uniquely emphasized moral atonement over magical efficacy.

## **Related Passages**

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## **Study Questions**

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1. How does God's holiness, as revealed in this verse, shape your understanding of worship, obedience, and daily living?
2. How does understanding the purpose behind God's laws help you obey Him from the heart rather than mere duty?
3. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?

## Interlinear Text

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|                             |                               |          |        |                       |            |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|--------|-----------------------|------------|
| וְקִרְאתֶם                  | בַּעַצְמֹתָם                  | הַיּוֹם  | הַזֶּה | מִקְרָא               |            |
| And ye shall proclaim       | on the selfsame               | day      | H2088  | convocation           |            |
| H7121                       | H6106                         | H3117    |        | H4744                 |            |
| כִּי יִדָּשׁ                | יְהוָה ה'                     | לָכֵן    | כָּל   | מְלַאכְתּוֹ           | עֲבֹדָה    |
| that it may be an holy      | H1961                         | H0       | H3605  | work                  | no servile |
| H6944                       |                               |          |        | H4399                 | H5656      |
| תַּעֲשׂוּ                   | חֻקֹּתַי                      | עוֹלָם   | בְּכָל | מִשְׁכְּנֵי תֵיכֶם    |            |
| unto you ye shall do        | therein it shall be a statute | for ever | H3605  | in all your dwellings |            |
| H6213                       | H2708                         | H5769    |        | H4186                 |            |
| לְדֹרֹתֵיכֶם:               |                               |          |        |                       |            |
| throughout your generations |                               |          |        |                       |            |
| H1755                       |                               |          |        |                       |            |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Leviticus 23:2** (Holy): Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts.

**Genesis 17:7** (Parallel theme): And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

**Leviticus 23:4** (Holy): These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.

**Leviticus 23:14** (Parallel theme): And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your God: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

**Numbers 18:23** (Parallel theme): But the Levites shall do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they shall bear their iniquity: it shall be a

statute for ever throughout your generations, that among the children of Israel they have no inheritance.

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