

Leviticus 23:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

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

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God's holiness, as revealed in this verse, shape your understanding of worship, obedience, and daily living?
2. How can you use this verse to worship God more fully, obey Him more faithfully, or love others more sacrificially?
3. How does this verse reveal God's character, and how should that revelation shape your relationship with Him?

Interlinear Text

שֵׁשֶׁת	וַיְבִי אוֹם	תַּעֲשֶׂה ו	מְלָאכָה	וַיְבִי אוֹם	הַשְּׁבִיעִי	שַׁבָּת
Six	day	be done	no work	day	but the seventh	is the sabbath
H8337	H3117	H6213	H4399	H3117	H7637	H7676
תַּעֲשֶׂה ו	ל א	מְלָאכָה	כָּל	קֹדֶשׁ	מִקְרָא	שַׁבְּתוֹן
be done		no work		an holy	convocation	of rest
H6213		H4399	H3605	H6944	H4744	H7677
מִשְׁבְּתֵיכֶם:	בְּכָל ל	לִיהוָה	הוא	שַׁבָּת		
in all your dwellings		of the LORD		is the sabbath		
H4186	H3605	H3068	H1931	H7676		

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 19:3 (References Lord): Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep my sabbaths: I am the LORD your God.

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.

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.

Luke 13:14 (Parallel theme): And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day.

Revelation 1:10 (References Lord): I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

Isaiah 58:13 (Holy): If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words:

Isaiah 56:2 (Parallel theme): Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil.

Isaiah 56:6 (References Lord): Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant;

Acts 15:21 (Parallel theme): For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.

Exodus 16:29 (References Lord): See, for that the LORD hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.