

Luke 13:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?

Analysis

And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day? Jesus escalates the kal v'chomer argument with devastating force. The phrase "daughter of Abraham" (θυγατέρα Αβραὰμ, thygatera Abraam) emphasizes her covenant status—she belongs to God's people, heir to the promises. Jesus affirms her full standing in Israel despite her affliction, contradicting assumptions that disability indicated divine disfavor.

The clause "whom Satan hath bound" (ἥν ἔδησεν ὁ Σατανᾶς, hēn edēsen ho Satanas) reveals the spiritual dimension. The verb deō (δέω) means to bind, tie, imprison—the opposite of lyō (λύω, to loose) used in verses 12, 15, and 16. This woman's suffering resulted from demonic oppression, making her condition not merely medical but spiritual warfare. Satan binds; Jesus looses. The Sabbath, God's gift of rest and liberation, is the perfect day to break Satan's chains.

The time reference—"eighteen years" (δέκα καὶ ὀκτὼ ἔτη)—underscores the urgency. Nearly two decades of suffering! Yet the ruler demanded she wait another day. Jesus' rhetorical question expects the answer "Yes, of course she should be loosed!" The argument is irresistible: if you loose animals from mere physical need, how much more should this covenant daughter be loosed from Satanic bondage? The Sabbath celebrates liberation from slavery (Deuteronomy 5:15)—what better day to free a captive?

Historical Context

The title "daughter of Abraham" affirmed Jewish identity and covenant membership. Romans 9:4-5 lists the privileges of Israelites: adoption, glory, covenants, law, worship, promises, patriarchs, and Messiah. Jesus asserts that this woman, despite physical disability, fully belongs to the covenant community. His appeal to Abraham resonates with Jewish honor for their patriarch and counters any suggestion that her condition disqualified her from God's favor. The Sabbath itself commemorated deliverance from Egyptian bondage (Deuteronomy 5:15), making liberation from Satan's bondage perfectly appropriate for the Sabbath.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus' defense of the woman as a 'daughter of Abraham' teach about the full inclusion of all believers regardless of physical condition?
2. How does recognizing spiritual warfare behind some physical suffering affect our approach to prayer and ministry?
3. Why is the Sabbath (commemorating liberation from slavery) the perfect day to break Satan's chains?

Interlinear Text

ταύτην δὲ θυγατέρα Ἀβραὰμ οὗσαν ἦν ἔδησεν ὁ
G3778 And a daughter of Abraham being whom hath bound G3588
G1161 G2364 G11 G5607 G3739 G1210

Σατανᾶς ἵδού, δέκα καὶ ὀκτὼ ἔτη οὐκ ἔδει
Satan lo these eighteen years not ought
G4567 G2400 G1176 G2532 G3638 G2094 G3756 G1163

λυθῆναι ἀπὸ τοῦ δεσμοῦ τούτου τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τοῦ
be loosed from G3588 bond this G3588 day G3588
G3089 G575 G1199 G5127 G2250

σαββάτου
on the sabbath
G4521

Additional Cross-References

Mark 2:27 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:

Acts 13:26 (References Abraham): Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent.

John 8:44 (Parallel theme): Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Luke 3:8 (References Abraham): Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

Luke 19:9 (References Abraham): And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forasmuch as he also is a son of Abraham.

2 Timothy 2:26 (Parallel theme): And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Matthew 4:10 (Parallel theme): Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org