

Numbers 15:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if a stranger sojourn with you, or whosoever be among you in your generations, and will offer an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD; as ye do, so he shall do.

Analysis

And if a stranger sojourn with you (גֵּר ger, 'sojourner/resident alien')—Remarkably, the ger who aligned with Israel's covenant could participate in worship on equal terms with natives. This foreshadows the gospel mystery: Gentiles as 'fellowheirs, and of the same body' (Ephesians 3:6).

And will offer an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD—The stranger's offering is equally acceptable. God smells no difference between native and alien sacrifices when both follow prescribed patterns. This anticipates Acts 10:35: 'In every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.' Ruth the Moabitess exemplified this principle (Ruth 1:16-17).

Historical Context

In ancient Near Eastern cultures, foreigners were typically excluded from cultic activities or relegated to inferior status. Israel's inclusion of sojourners who embraced Yahweh was radically counter-cultural, reflecting God's ultimate plan to bless 'all families of the earth' (Genesis 12:3).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the inclusion of the **ger** challenge ethnic or cultural barriers in contemporary church communities?
2. What conditions allowed strangers to participate in Israel's worship, and what parallels exist for gospel conversion?
3. In what ways does this passage refute both ethnic exclusivism and theological universalism?

Interlinear Text

וְכִי יָגוּר אֶתְּכֶם אִם יֵרָא אֶלְכֶם
H3588 H1481 **sojourn** H854 **And if a stranger** H176 H834
H1616

בְּתוֹכְכֶם לְדֹרֹתֶיךָ וַיַּעַשׂ:
H8432 **with you or whosoever be among** H1755 **you in your generations** H6213 **and will offer**

אֵשׁ הֵאָרַח נִיחֹחַ לִיהוָה בְּאֵשׁ וַיַּעַשׂ:
H801 **an offering made by fire** H7381 **savour** H5207 **of a sweet** H3068 **unto the LORD** H834 **and will offer** H6213

וַיַּעַשׂ:
H3651 **and will offer** H6213