

# Numbers 28:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the first day shall be an holy convocation; ye shall do no manner of servile work therein:

## Analysis

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**An holy convocation** (מִקְרָא־קָדֵשׁ, miqra-qodesh)—literally "a called-together holiness" or "sacred assembly." The word miqra comes from the same root as qara (קֹרָא, "to call"), emphasizing that God summons His people together for worship. This was not optional attendance but covenantal obligation. The assembly was "holy" (קָדֵשׁ, qodesh) meaning "set apart" from ordinary time and activity.

**No manner of servile work** (כָּל־מְלָאכָת עֲבָדָה, kol-meleket avodah)—literally "all work of labor" was prohibited, similar to but distinct from Sabbath rest. Feast days allowed food preparation (Exodus 12:16) but forbade occupational labor. This rhythm taught that humans exist for worship, not merely work—a counter-cultural truth in both ancient agrarian and modern capitalist economies.

## Historical Context

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The first and seventh days of Unleavened Bread were full Sabbaths with sacred assemblies (Exodus 12:16; Leviticus 23:7-8). In Second Temple Judaism, these became pilgrimage occasions when Jerusalem swelled with worshipers. Jesus likely observed these convocations annually until His final Passover week, when He became the ultimate Paschal Lamb.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. What does it mean that worship is a divine "calling" rather than human initiative or personal preference?
2. How might setting aside regular times of cessation from work challenge your culture's values?
3. In a 24/7 world, what would "holy convocation"—gathered, unhurried worship—require you to sacrifice?

## Interlinear Text

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מִלְּאָכֵת כָּל בַּיּוֹם  
In the first convocation shall be an holy work  
H3117 H7223 H4744 H6944 H3605 H4399

לֹא עֲבֹד תִּתְעַשֵּׂה  
no manner of servile ye shall do  
H5656 H3808 H6213

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 12:16** (Holy): And in the first day there shall be an holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be an holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, save that which every man must eat, that only may be done of you.

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