

Numbers 28:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And on the seventh day ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work.

Analysis

On the seventh day ye shall have an holy convocation (וַיְבִיחֻם הַשְּׁבִיעִי מִקְרָא־קֹדֶשׁ, uvayom hashvi'i miqra-qodesh)—the week-long feast concluded with another sacred assembly and Sabbath rest. The number seven (שֶׁבַע, sheva) signifies completeness, echoing creation's seventh day rest (Genesis 2:2-3). Passover week thus recapitulated creation order: from bondage (chaos) to freedom (rest), from Egypt (disorder) to worship (divine order).

Ye shall do no servile work—the repetition from verse 18 brackets the feast with Sabbath rest, emphasizing that redemption's goal is worship, not productivity. Israel's identity was not defined by labor (as in Egypt's slavery) but by belonging to the God who redeemed them. This rest prefigures Hebrews 4:9-10's rest for the people of God, the ultimate Sabbath entered through faith in Christ.

Historical Context

The seventh day concluded the Feast of Unleavened Bread on the 21st of Nisan/Aviv. Between the first day (15th) and seventh day (21st), Israel lived in tension—celebrating redemption while still eating bread of affliction, already free but not yet home. This mirrored their forty-year wilderness journey and prefigures Christian life: saved but not yet glorified, between already and not yet.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the week-long structure (opening and closing with holy convocation) shape the rhythm of celebration and rest?
2. What does it mean that redemption's goal is rest/worship, not increased productivity for God?
3. How do you live in the tension between redemption already accomplished (Passover) and consummation not yet realized (Promised Land)?

Interlinear Text

וַיְבִיחַ	הַשְּׁבִיעִי י	מִקְרָא	קִדְשׁ	לְכֶם יְהוָה ה	
day	And on the seventh	convocation	ye shall have an holy	H1961	H0
H3117	H7637	H4744	H6944		
כָּל	מְלֶאכֶת ה	עֲבֹדָה	ל א	תַּעֲשׂוּ:	
H3605	work	no servile	H3808	ye shall do	
	H4399	H5656		H6213	

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 23:8 (Holy): But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven days: in the seventh day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

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.

Exodus 13:6 (Parallel theme): Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, and in the seventh day shall be a feast to the LORD.

Numbers 28:18 (Holy): In the first day shall be an holy convocation; ye shall do no manner of servile work therein:

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