

Numbers 9:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the man that is clean, and is not in a journey, and forbeareth to keep the passover, even the same soul shall be cut off from among his people: because he brought not the offering of the LORD in his appointed season, that man shall bear his sin.

Analysis

The severe penalty 'that soul shall be cut off from among his people' for neglecting Passover without excuse shows covenant obligations' seriousness. The Hebrew *karat* (cut off) may indicate execution or excommunication. Those with legitimate excuse (uncleanness, travel) received accommodation; those without excuse faced judgment. This teaches that covenant privilege brings covenant responsibility. New Testament parallel exists in excommunication for unrepentant sin (Matthew 18:17, 1 Corinthians 5:13). Access to covenant means is blessing, but despising them brings judgment.

Historical Context

This law underscores Passover's central importance in Israelite identity—forgetting redemption was unthinkable. The annual commemoration renewed covenant identity and taught children the deliverance narrative. Neglecting Passover effectively renounced covenant membership. In Josiah's reform, restoring proper Passover observance signaled spiritual renewal (2 Kings 23:21-23).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the severity of neglecting covenant means challenge casual church attendance?
2. What does 'cutting off' from God's people mean in New Testament context?
3. How should we balance gracious accommodation with covenant responsibility?

Interlinear Text

בְּנֵי הָנָא לֹא יִשְׁאַל בְּאַשְׁר הַאֲזֵר וְרָא טָהָר בְּגַם כִּי
But the man H834 H1931 that is clean H2889 and is not in a journey H1870 H3808 H1961

בְּנֵי פָשָׁע וְנִכְרַת הַבָּשָׂר לְעֵשׂ וְתַּחַדְל
and forbeareth H2308 to keep H6213 the passover H6453 shall be cut off H3772 even the same soul H5315

לֹא יִהְנַת הַקְרֵב | קְרֵב | מַעַט יְהִי | כִּי הַמְּלֵאָה
from among his people H5971 H3588 not the offering H7133 of the LORD H3068 H3808

בְּאַשְׁר יִשְׁאַל חַטֹּאת | בְּמֵעֵד | בְּמֵעֵד | כִּי
because he brought H7126 in his appointed season H4150 his sin H2399 shall bear H5375 But the man H376

בְּהָאָה:

H1931

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 12:15 (Parallel theme): Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel.

Genesis 17:14 (Parallel theme): And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.

Numbers 9:7 (Sacrifice): And those men said unto him, We are defiled by the dead body of a man: wherefore are we kept back, that we may not offer an offering of the LORD in his appointed season among the children of Israel?

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