

Numbers 9:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the fourteenth day of this month, at even, ye shall keep it in his appointed season: according to all the rites of it, and according to all the ceremonies thereof, shall ye keep it.

Analysis

The phrase 'according to all the rites of it, and according to all the ceremonies thereof' stresses meticulous obedience to prescribed forms. The Hebrew *chukim* (statutes) and *mishpatim* (judgments) cover all aspects of the ritual. God cares about the details of worship, not just general intent. This opposes the idea that sincerity matters more than form. While New Testament worship is simpler, it retains divine prescription—baptism and the Lord's Supper have specific elements, meanings, and recipients that cannot be altered by human preference without violating divine command.

Historical Context

The Passover ritual included specific elements: unblemished lamb, bitter herbs, unleavened bread, specific timing, eating in haste with staff and sandals, applying blood to doorposts (in Egypt), and recounting the redemption narrative. Deviation from these prescriptions was not permitted. Later Jewish tradition elaborated extensively on Passover observance (the Seder).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God's concern for worship details challenge the 'form doesn't matter, only heart' mindset?
2. What prescribed elements of New Testament worship must not be altered?
3. How can we maintain both sincere hearts and faithful forms in worship?

Interlinear Text

הָעֶרֶב יָם בֵּין הָהָה בַּחֹדֶשׁ י וְעַשָּׂר בְּאַרְבָּעָה ה
In the fourteenth H6240 **day** H3117 **of this month** H2088 H996 **at even** H6153
H702

כָּכָל בְּמִעְדּוֹ אֶת וְתַעֲשֶׂה וְ
thereof shall ye keep H853 **it in his appointed season** H4150 H3605
H6213

מִשְׁפָּט יוֹ וְכָכָל חֻקֵּי יוֹ
according to all the rites H3605 **of it and according to all the ceremonies** H4941
H2708

אֹתוֹ: תַעֲשֶׂה וְ
thereof shall ye keep H853
H6213

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