

Deuteronomy 1:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I commanded you at that time all the things which ye should do.

Analysis

Moses' charge to the judges—"Hear the causes between your brethren"—establishes the foundational principle of impartial justice. The command to judge 'righteously' (Hebrew 'tsedeq') requires verdicts aligned with God's character and law, not personal preference or societal pressure. Justice must be both heard (thorough investigation) and executed (righteous verdict), reflecting God's own nature as the perfect Judge.

Historical Context

In the ancient Near East, corruption and favoritism in legal systems was common. Israel's law insisted on equal justice regardless of social status, a radical concept that reflected God's character and distinguished Israel from surrounding nations.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you ensure fairness in your judgments and decisions about others?

2. What biases might influence your discernment that need to be surrendered to God's standard?

Interlinear Text

וְאָמַרְתִּי	אֶתְּךָ	בְּעֵת	הַהִיא	אֵת	כָּל	הַדְּבָרִים
And I commanded	H853	you at that time	H1931	H853	H3605	all the things
H6680		H6256				H1697
אֲשֶׁר	תַּעֲשׂוּן:					
H834	which ye should do					
	H6213					

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