

Deuteronomy 10:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

At that time the LORD said unto me, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first, and come up unto me into the mount, and make thee an ark of wood.

Analysis

At that time the LORD said unto me, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first, and come up unto me into the mount, and make thee an ark of wood. God's command to prepare new tablets demonstrates covenant renewal after Israel's sin. The initiative comes from God - He provides opportunity for restoration despite Israel's breach.

The phrase like unto the first indicates the renewed covenant maintains the same terms as the original. God does not lower His standards or modify His law to accommodate human weakness. The moral requirements remain unchanged; what changes is provision for renewed relationship despite violation.

The command to make thee an ark of wood introduces the container for the tablets. This ark (not yet the elaborate gold-covered ark of the tabernacle) would preserve God's written word, symbolizing that divine revelation must be protected and honored.

Reformed theology sees covenant renewal after sin as preview of gospel grace. Though the law remains unchanged, God provides means for sinners to be restored to covenant relationship through mediatorial work - Moses in the type, Christ in the antitype.

Historical Context

This occurred after Moses' successful intercession following the golden calf incident. God's willingness to renew the covenant demonstrated His commitment to the patriarchal promises and His purpose to preserve a people for Himself despite their rebellion.

The tablets and ark would become central symbols of God's covenant presence with Israel, eventually housed in the Most Holy Place of the tabernacle.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does God's initiative in covenant renewal reveal about His character and purposes?
2. How does the unchanged content of the law demonstrate God's unchanging standards?
3. What is the significance of preparing a container to preserve God's written word?
4. How does covenant renewal in the Old Testament preview gospel restoration?
5. Why must God provide the means for restoring broken relationship with Him?

Interlinear Text

בַּעֲתָ	הָהּ וְאָמַר	יְהוָה	אֵלַי	פָּסַל	לִבִּי	שְׁנֵי
At that time	H1931	said	the LORD	H413	unto me Hew	H0 thee two
H6256		H559	H3068		H6458	H8147
לִוְחֵי	אֲבָנִים	כְּאֲשֶׁנִּי	וְעָלֵה	אֵלַי	הָהָה	
tables	of stone	like unto the first	and come up	H413	unto me into the mount	
H3871	H68	H7223	H5927		H2022	
וַעֲשֵׂה	לִבִּי	אֶרֶץ	עֵץ:			
and make	H0	thee an ark	of wood			
H6213		H727	H6086			

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