

Deuteronomy 10:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?

Analysis

The purpose of the law is comprehensive: 'to keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day, for thy good.' The phrase 'for thy good' shows God's commands aren't arbitrary restrictions but loving guidance toward flourishing. Obedience produces blessing, not because it earns God's favor but because it aligns with how God designed reality to function. The law reveals God's character and will; living according to it produces life that matches our created design. Jesus summarized this: 'If ye love me, keep my commandments' (John 14:15). Obedience is the pathway of love, leading to abundant life.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern law codes (Hammurabi, Hittite laws) served societal order but didn't claim to promote subjects' ultimate good. Israel's law uniquely combined justice with comprehensive well-being: spiritual, physical, social, economic. The statutes governed worship, diet, agriculture, social relationships, and justice—all designed to create healthy community reflecting God's character. When Israel followed the law, they experienced blessing (Deuteronomy 28:1-14); disobedience brought natural consequences of violated design (28:15-68). The law was 'good' (Romans 7:12) though unable to save—it revealed God's standard and human inability, pointing to need for Christ.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you view God's commands: as restrictive burdens or loving guidance toward your good?
2. What evidence in your life confirms that obedience to God's ways produces flourishing?
3. In what areas are you resisting God's commands and experiencing the natural consequences of violated design?

Interlinear Text

אֵשֶׁר	רְקָמָת	וְ	אֶת	יְהִי	וְ	אֶת	מִצְוֹת	תְּ	לְשֵׁם	רְ
To keep	H853		the commandments		of the LORD	H853		and his statutes		H834
H8104			H4687		H3068			H2708		
וְ	אֲנַכָּךְ	וְ	מִצְוָה	וְ	יְמִינָה	וְ	לְבָנָה	וְ	רְקָמָת	וְ
H595			which I command		thee this day		for thy good	H0		
			H6680		H3117		H2896			

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 32:39 (Good): And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them:

Deuteronomy 6:24 (Good): And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day.

James 1:25 (Word): But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

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