

Deuteronomy 10:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will write on the tables the words that were in the first tables which thou brakest, and thou shalt put them in the ark.

Analysis

And I will write on the tables the words that were in the first tables which thou brakest, and thou shalt put them in the ark. God Himself will write the law again - this is pure grace, as Israel deserved no second chance. The LORD takes responsibility for renewing what human sin destroyed.

The phrase the words that were in the first tables emphasizes continuity - covenant renewal does not mean covenant revision. The same unchanging moral law will be inscribed. God accommodates human failure not by lowering standards but by providing renewed access to His covenant.

The command put them in the ark ensures permanent preservation of God's written revelation. The ark serves as throne, footstool, and archive for God's covenant document. This honored placement demonstrates that God's word deserves careful preservation and honored position among His people.

The broken first tablets testified to covenant violation; the renewed tablets testify to covenant grace. That God provides new tablets despite Israel's unworthiness previews the New Covenant, where God writes His law on hearts (Jeremiah 31:33) rather than tablets.

Historical Context

Moses ascended Mount Sinai a second time to receive replacement tablets. This second giving of the law occurred after extended intercession and Israel's repentance. The new tablets were eventually placed in the gold-covered ark within the tabernacle's Most Holy Place.

These tablets remained with Israel throughout their history, symbolizing God's abiding covenant relationship despite the nation's ongoing unfaithfulness.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does God's personal writing of the law reveal about its authority and origin?
2. How does the unchanged content of renewed covenant demonstrate God's unchanging standards?
3. What is the significance of carefully preserving and honoring God's written word?
4. How do the renewed tablets preview the New Covenant promise of law written on hearts?
5. Why is it crucial that covenant renewal comes from God's initiative, not human effort?

Interlinear Text

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 8:9 (Parallel theme): There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone, which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt.

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