

Deuteronomy 10:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I turned myself and came down from the mount, and put the tables in the ark which I had made; and there they be, as the LORD commanded me.

Analysis

And I turned myself and came down from the mount, and put the tables in the ark which I had made; and there they be, as the LORD commanded me. Moses' careful obedience preserves God's word for future generations. The ark safeguards the tablets, ensuring the law remains accessible to Israel throughout their history.

The phrase there they be indicates the tablets remained in the ark at the time of Moses' speech. This eyewitness testimony confirms the continued presence of God's written covenant among His people. The physical tablets served as tangible evidence of God's covenant commitment.

Moses' statement as the LORD commanded me emphasizes exact compliance with divine instruction. Faithful servants handle God's word with utmost care, neither adding to nor diminishing from what He has spoken. This models proper stewardship of divine revelation.

Reformed theology sees in the ark a type of Christ, who perfectly embodies and preserves God's law. Just as the ark contained the tablets, Christ internalized the law perfectly, fulfilling every requirement on behalf of His people.

Historical Context

The ark remained with Israel throughout their wilderness wandering and conquest of Canaan. It was eventually placed in Solomon's temple, where it resided in the Most Holy Place until the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem.

By the time of Jeremiah (Jeremiah 3:16), the ark had been lost, but God promised a future time when it would not be needed because He would write His law directly on human hearts.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does Moses' careful preservation of the law tablets teach about stewarding God's word?
2. How does the ark serve as type of Christ who perfectly contains and fulfills the law?
3. Why was it important that the tablets remained accessible to Israel throughout their history?
4. What is the significance of exact obedience in handling divine revelation?
5. How does the New Covenant promise of law written on hearts improve upon the tablets in the ark?

Interlinear Text

וְאָתָּה תָּשִׂים	וְאָשַׁם	בְּרַכְתְּךָ	מִן	תָּרַדְתָּ	וְאָתָּה תָּשִׂים
And I turned	myself and came down	from the mount	and put		
H6437	H3381	H4480	H2022		H853
בְּאָשָׁר שָׁמַן	בְּאָשָׁר שָׁמַן	וְאָשָׁר שָׁמַן	וְאָשָׁר שָׁמַן	וְאָשָׁר שָׁמַן	וְאָשָׁר שָׁמַן
the tables	in the ark	which I had made			
H3871	H727	H834	H6213	H1961	H8033
צִוָּה בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל	וְאָשָׁר שָׁמַן	וְאָשָׁר שָׁמַן	וְאָשָׁר שָׁמַן	וְאָשָׁר שָׁמַן	וְאָשָׁר שָׁמַן
commanded	and there they be as the LORD				
H6680	H3068				

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 34:29 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him.

Exodus 40:20 (Parallel theme): And he took and put the testimony into the ark, and set the staves on the ark, and put the mercy seat above upon the ark: