

# Deuteronomy 11:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto him;

## Analysis

Moses reiterates the conditional: 'if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments' links blessing to comprehensive obedience. The triad of responsibilities: 'love the LORD your God, walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto him' summarizes covenant faithfulness. 'Love' (ahav, אהַב) denotes loyal affection; 'walk' (halak, הַלָּךְ) indicates lifestyle and conduct; 'cleave' (dabaq, דָּבַק) means cling or adhere firmly, used elsewhere for marriage (Genesis 2:24). The metaphor: covenant relationship with God resembles marital fidelity—exclusive, affectionate, enduring. This anticipates New Testament language of church as Christ's bride.

## Historical Context

The verb 'cleave' creates theological wordplay: Israel must 'cleave to' Yahweh, not to Canaanite gods. Ruth 'cleaved' to Naomi (Ruth 1:14), exemplifying covenant loyalty. The exilic prophets would charge Israel with 'adultery' (idolatry), violating their exclusive covenant with Yahweh (Ezekiel 16, 23; Hosea 1-3). This verse establishes the marriage metaphor foundational to biblical theology.

## Related Passages

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. What does it mean to 'cleave to' God in daily life, and how does this differ from casual religious affiliation?
2. How do love, obedience, and loyalty to God function as inseparable elements of true faith?
3. In what ways does understanding covenant as marriage relationship deepen appreciation for God's jealousy and grace?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּי	אָמַר	תִּשְׁמַר	וְ	תִּשְׁמַר	וְ	כָּל	אֶת
H3588	H518	For if ye shall diligently	H8104	For if ye shall diligently	H8104	H853	H3605
בְּמִצְרַיִם	אָנֹכִי	אֲשֶׁר	בָּזְאת	מִצְרַיִם	אֲתָּךְ	מִ	אֲתָּךְ
all these commandments	H2063	H834	H595	which I command	H6680	H853	
לְעֹשֶׂת	לְאַהֲבָה	הָאֶת	יְהִי	אֱלֹהִיכָּם	לְלִכְתָּה	בְּכָל	
you to do	them to love	H853	H3068	your God	H1980	H3605	
בָּוֹךְ	לִלְזְבָּקָה						
in all his ways	and to cleave	H1692	H0				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 6:17** (Word): Ye shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and his testimonies, and his statutes, which he hath commanded thee.

**Deuteronomy 11:13** (Love): And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul,

**Deuteronomy 10:20** (References God): Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name.

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