

Deuteronomy 11:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ye shall observe to do all the statutes and judgments which I set before you this day.

Analysis

The chapter concludes with solemn charge: 'And ye shall observe to do all the statutes and judgments which I set before you this day.' The verb 'observe' (shamar, שָׁמַר, guard/keep) demands careful attention and diligent execution. The comprehensive 'all' allows no selective obedience—the entire covenant must be kept. The phrase 'statutes and judgments' (תְּקִים וְמִשְׁפָטִים, chuqqim u-mishpatim) encompasses ceremonial laws (statutes) and civil/judicial laws (judgments), representing covenant requirements' totality. Moses's phrase 'this day' creates urgency—they must respond immediately to divine revelation. This verse transitions to chapter 12's specific laws by emphasizing comprehensive covenant obedience.

Historical Context

The call for total obedience anticipates the detailed laws of chapters 12-26. Unlike ancient Near Eastern law codes (Hammurabi, Lipit-Ishtar) which were legal precedents, Torah was covenant stipulation requiring wholehearted compliance. Jesus later condemned Pharisaic selectivity—'ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law' (Matthew 23:23). True obedience embraces all of God's word, not just convenient portions. New Testament faith similarly demands comprehensive discipleship (Matthew 28:20; James 2:10).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do we tend toward selective obedience, emphasizing preferred commands while neglecting difficult ones?
2. What does it mean to 'observe to do ALL' God's word in the age of grace when we're not under Mosaic law?
3. How does Jesus's teaching on the 'weightier matters of the law' help us discern priorities without selective disobedience?

Interlinear Text

וְשִׁמְרָתָ מְ	לְעַשׂ וְתָ	כָּל	אַתָּה	וְעַתָּה יְמִינְךָ	וְעַתָּה
And ye shall observe	to do	H853	H3605	all the statutes	H853
H8104	H6213			H2706	
וְ	אֲנֵךְ	אֲשֶׁר	רְכִמְשָׁפֵט	נִתְתִּין	לְפָנֶיךָ מִ
and judgments	H834	H595	which I set	before	you this day
H4941			H5414	H6440	H3117

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 28:20 (Parallel theme): Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Deuteronomy 12:32 (Parallel theme): What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.