

Deuteronomy 12:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But in the place which the LORD shall choose in one of thy tribes, there thou shalt offer thy burnt offerings, and there thou shalt do all that I command thee.

Analysis

The positive prescription: 'But in the place which the LORD shall choose in one of thy tribes, there thou shalt offer thy burnt offerings, and there thou shalt do all that I command thee.' The exclusivity is emphatic: 'the place'—singular, not plural. God will choose one tribe's territory for the sanctuary (ultimately Judah/Jerusalem). The phrase 'there...and there' emphasizes the exclusive location. 'All that I command thee' demands comprehensive obedience at the designated site. This prevents worship fragmentation and protects covenant unity. Authorized location and prescribed practice together constitute acceptable worship.

Historical Context

Initially, the chosen place was Shiloh in Ephraim (Joshua 18:1; Judges 18:31). After Philistines destroyed Shiloh (1 Samuel 4-6; Jeremiah 7:12-14; Psalm 78:60), the ark moved between cities until David brought it to Jerusalem in Judah. Solomon built the permanent temple there (1 Kings 8). God's choice of Jerusalem fulfilled this command. After AD 70's temple destruction, worship centralization transferred from physical location to Christ, the true temple (John 4:21-24).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

- ## Interlinear Text

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 12:5 (References Lord): But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come:

Deuteronomy 12:11 (Sacrifice): Then there shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD:

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