

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does worship centralization (single authorized location/means) challenge modern religious pluralism and individualism?
2. What does God's sovereign choice of worship location teach about human authority versus divine prerogative in worship?
3. How do Christians today understand worship centralization given that 'the place' is now Christ, not physical Jerusalem?

Interlinear Text

בְּאַחֲרֵי	יְהוָה	יְבִרְכֶּךְ	וְמִשְׁפְּטֶךְ	אֲשֶׁר	בְּפָקָד	אַמְּנָה	כִּי
H3588	H518	But in the place	H834	shall choose	which the LORD	in one	
		H4725		H977		H3068	H259
וְשָׁבֵט יְבִרְכֶּךְ	עַלְתָּה יְבִרְכֶּךְ	פְּנָלָה	שְׁמָמָה	עַלְתָּה יְבִרְכֶּךְ	פְּנָלָה	וְשָׁבֵט יְבִרְכֶּךְ	
of thy tribes	there thou shalt offer	thy burnt offerings		thy burnt offerings	thy burnt offerings	of thy tribes	
H7626	H8033		H5927		H5930		H8033
מְצָמָא	מְצָמָא	מְצָמָא	מְצָמָא	מְצָמָא	מְצָמָא	מְצָמָא	מְצָמָא
אֲשֶׁר כֵּל	אֲשֶׁר כֵּל	אֲשֶׁר כֵּל	אֲשֶׁר כֵּל	אֲשֶׁר כֵּל	אֲשֶׁר כֵּל	אֲשֶׁר כֵּל	אֲשֶׁר כֵּל
and there thou shalt do	H3605	H834	H595	all that I command			
H6213							H6680

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 5:19 (Parallel theme): To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

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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