

Deuteronomy 12:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Only thy holy things which thou hast, and thy vows, thou shalt take, and go unto the place which the LORD shall choose:

Analysis

The requirement for consecrated items: 'Only thy holy things which thou hast, and thy vows, thou shalt take, and go unto the place which the LORD shall choose.' While ordinary meat can be consumed locally, 'holy things' (qodashim, קדושים, consecrated items) must go to the sanctuary. Vows (nedarim, נדרים) create special obligations requiring sanctuary fulfillment. The phrase 'go unto the place' indicates pilgrimage—physically bringing consecrated items to God's chosen location. This maintains sacred/common distinction: what belongs to God must be handled according to His stipulations at His chosen place. Personal convenience doesn't override divine prescription.

Historical Context

Hannah's vow to dedicate Samuel (1 Samuel 1:11, 24-28) exemplifies fulfilling vows at the sanctuary. Jephthah's tragic vow (Judges 11:30-40) shows vows' binding nature. Ecclesiastes 5:4-5 warns against rash vows: 'When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it...better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.' Later Judaism developed vow formulas and release mechanisms (Mishnah Nedarim). Jesus critiqued using vows to evade obligations (Matthew 15:3-6).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does the seriousness of vows teach about integrity and commitment to God?
2. How do modern Christians understand vow-making given that Jesus said 'let your yes be yes' (Matthew 5:33-37)?
3. What is our obligation when we've made commitments to God (pledges, dedications, promises)?

Interlinear Text

וְנַדְבַּךְ יְהֹוָה בְּקָדְשֶׁךְ יְהֹוָה אֲשֶׁר יְהֹוָה וְנַדְבַּךְ יְהֹוָה
H7535 Only thy holy things H834 H1961 H0 which thou hast and thy vows
H6944

וְנַדְבַּךְ יְהֹוָה אֲשֶׁר בְּקָדְשֶׁךְ תָּשַׁאַת
H7535 thou shalt take H935 H413 unto the place H4725 H834 shall choose
H6944

וְנַדְבַּךְ יְהֹוָה:
which the LORD
H3068

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 18:19 (Holy): All the heave offerings of the holy things, which the children of Israel offer unto the LORD, have I given thee, and thy sons and thy daughters with thee, by a statute for ever: it is a covenant of salt for ever before the LORD unto thee and to thy seed with thee.

