

Deuteronomy 13:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all Israel shall hear, and fear, and shall do no more any such wickedness as this is among you.

Analysis

The purpose: 'And all Israel shall hear, and fear, and shall do no more any such wickedness as this is among you.' Public execution serves deterrent function—'all Israel shall hear' disseminates warning; 'fear' (yare, יָרָא, reverence/dread) creates healthy dread of covenant violation; 'shall do no more any such wickedness' prevents repetition. Capital punishment isn't merely retributive but preventative—protecting community from spiritual corruption. The phrase 'such wickedness' (ra'ah, רָעָה, evil) classifies apostasy as moral evil, not merely religious error. Public judgment maintains covenant holiness and deters imitators. Fear of consequences reinforces right behavior.

Historical Context

This principle appears throughout Old Testament: Achan's punishment deterred covenant violation (Joshua 7:25-26); Ananias and Sapphira's deaths created holy fear (Acts 5:11); Paul instructs Timothy to rebuke sinning elders publicly 'that others also may fear' (1 Timothy 5:20). While New Testament church lacks civil authority for capital punishment, public church discipline still functions to warn others (1 Corinthians 5:6-7; 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15). Sin's contagious nature requires decisive action to prevent spread.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does public confrontation of sin serve both justice and deterrence in church communities?
2. What is the balance between grace toward repentant sinners and firmness toward unrepentant false teachers?
3. How can healthy fear of sin's consequences coexist with confidence in God's grace?

Interlinear Text

וְכָל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	יִשְׁמָעוּ	וְיִירָאוּ	וְלֹא	יֹסֵפוּ	לַעֲשׂוֹת	כִּדְבָר
H3605	And all Israel	shall hear	and fear	H3808	no more	and shall do	any
	H3478	H8085	H3372		H3254	H6213	H1697
	כְּעִצְ	הַזֶּה	בְּקִרְבָּנָהּ:				
	such wickedness	H2088	as this is among				
	H7451		H7130				

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 19:20 (Evil): And those which remain shall hear, and fear, and shall henceforth commit no more any such evil among you.

Deuteronomy 17:13 (Parallel theme): And all the people shall hear, and fear, and do no more presumptuously.