

Deuteronomy 13:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When thou shalt hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep all his commandments which I command thee this day, to do that which is right in the eyes of the LORD thy God.

Analysis

The condition: 'When thou shalt hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep all his commandments which I command thee this day, to do that which is right in the eyes of the LORD thy God.' Covenant blessing depends on covenant obedience—'hearken' (shama, שָׁמַע, hear/obey) and 'keep' (shamar, שָׁמַר, guard/observe) all commands. The standard: 'right in the eyes of the LORD'—divine perspective, not human judgment. This verse concludes chapter 13's warnings with positive exhortation: obedience brings blessing, disobedience brings curse. The choice remains perpetually before Israel. Faithfulness to revealed truth maintains covenant relationship; apostasy destroys it. Every generation faces this choice.

Historical Context

This conditional structure permeates Deuteronomy (Deuteronomy 28 details blessings and curses; chapter 30 offers restoration after judgment). Israel's history validated this: obedience under Joshua → conquest; apostasy under Judges → oppression; faithfulness under David/Solomon → empire; apostasy → divided kingdom → exile. The pattern proved reliable. New Testament applies this spiritually: obedience to Christ brings eternal life; rejection brings eternal judgment. The choice remains—blessing through faith or curse through unbelief.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do we cultivate consistent obedience 'to all God's commandments' rather than selective compliance?
2. What is the relationship between hearing God's voice and doing what is right in His eyes?
3. How does understanding obedience as prerequisite for blessing affect our approach to Christian living?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	תִשְׁמַע	בְּקוֹל	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ:	לִשְׁמֹר
H3588	When thou shalt hearken	to the voice	of the LORD	thy God	to keep
	H8085	H6963	H3068	H430	H8104
אֶת	כָּל	מִצְוֹתַי	אֲשֶׁר	אֶנֶכִּי	מְצַו
H853	H3605	all his commandments	H834	H595	which I command
		H4687			H6680
הֵי אִם	לַעֲשׂוֹת	הַיָּשָׁר	בְּעֵינַי	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ:
thee this day	to do	that which is right	in the eyes	of the LORD	thy God
H3117	H6213	H3477	H5869	H3068	H430

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 12:28 (Word): Observe and hear all these words which I command thee, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee for ever, when thou doest that which is good and right in the sight of the LORD thy God.

Matthew 7:24 (Parallel theme): Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

Matthew 7:21 (References Lord): Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Deuteronomy 12:25 (References Lord): Thou shalt not eat it; that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, when thou shalt do that which is right in the sight of the LORD.

Psalms 119:6 (Word): Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.

Matthew 6:33 (References God): But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

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