

Deuteronomy 15:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Only if thou carefully hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all these commandments which I command thee this day.

Analysis

Only if thou carefully hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all these commandments which I command thee this day. The promise of comprehensive blessing is conditional - only if Israel carefully obeys God's commands. Prosperity flows from faithfulness; poverty results from disobedience.

The emphasis carefully hearken demands attentive listening with intent to obey. Mere hearing is insufficient; active obedience to God's voice is required. This connects hearing and doing, faith and works - genuine faith manifests in obedient action.

The phrase all these commandments prohibits selective obedience. Israel could not choose to observe Sabbath while ignoring sabbatical release, or honor ceremonial laws while neglecting social justice. God demands comprehensive obedience to the entire covenant package.

This principle pervades Scripture - blessing follows obedience (Deuteronomy 28). While salvation comes by grace through faith, not by works, sanctification and temporal blessing have organic connection to obedience. God's moral order links righteousness and flourishing.

Historical Context

Israel's history demonstrated this principle repeatedly. Periods of covenant faithfulness brought blessing; apostasy and disobedience brought judgment. The Deuteronomistic history (Joshua through Kings) chronicles this pattern.

The prophets condemned Israel's selective obedience - maintaining ritual worship while oppressing the poor. God demanded comprehensive righteousness encompassing both ceremonial and social dimensions.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What is the relationship between obedience and blessing in God's covenant?
2. How does careful hearing differ from mere listening?
3. Why does God require comprehensive obedience rather than selective compliance with preferred commands?
4. How do we reconcile salvation by grace with the principle that obedience brings blessing?
5. What does Israel's history teach about the consequences of partial or selective obedience?

Interlinear Text

בְּקָרְבָּן
H7535 H518 Only if thou carefully Only if thou carefully unto the voice
תְּשִׁמְתָּעַ H8085 H8085 H6963

כָּל אַתָּה לְעֹשֹׂת
H3605 H853 H6213
of the LORD thy God to observe to do
יְהִי־הָאֱלֹהִים־יְהִי־הַמְּלֵאָה
לְשֵׁם־רַב־אֱלֹהִים־יְהִי־הַמְּלֵאָה

מִצְרָאָתְךָ אֲנָכִי אֲשֶׁר־בָּזְאת
H6680 H595 H834 H2063
which I command all these commandments
בְּמִצְרָאָתְךָ אֲנָכִי אֲשֶׁר־בָּזְאת
H4687

הַיּוֹם:
thee this day
H3117

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