

Deuteronomy 17:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt do according to the sentence, which they of that place which the LORD shall choose shall shew thee; and thou shalt observe to do according to all that they inform thee:

Analysis

Thou shalt do according to the sentence (על-פי הַדָּבָר, *al-pi hadavar*)—literally 'according to the mouth of the word'—emphasizing authoritative declaration. **Which they of that place which the LORD shall choose shall shew thee**—the central sanctuary's decision is binding, not optional advice.

Thou shalt observe to do according to all that they inform thee (יְרֻקָּה, *yorukha*)—'they teach/instruct you'). The verb יָרַךְ (*yarah*) means to point, direct, teach—root of Torah. Compliance isn't grudging obedience but teachable submission to authoritative instruction. This ensures legal consistency and prevents judicial chaos where every person does 'what is right in his own eyes' (Judges 21:25).

Historical Context

This verse established binding precedent in Israelite jurisprudence. Later rabbinic tradition developed extensive case law commentary (Mishnah, Talmud) attempting to faithfully apply Torah to new situations. The principle of submitting to authorized teaching appears in Hebrews 13:17 ('Obey them that have the rule over you') and Romans 13:1-7 (civil authority). Jesus's 'render unto Caesar' (Matthew

22:21) balances this with higher loyalty to God when authorities contradict divine law (Acts 5:29).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do you balance submission to church/civil authority with personal conscience and Scripture?
2. When is it right to disobey human authority in order to obey God (Acts 4:19-20; 5:29)?

Interlinear Text

לְעַשׂ	וְתִּ	עַל	כִּי	אֲשֶׁר	רְ	פָּקְדָּךְ	יְגִידָּךְ
And thou shalt do	H5921	according to the sentence	H6310	H1697	H834	shall shew	H5046
H6213							
לְכַ	מִן	מִן	בְּמִקְדָּשׁ	וְאַ	אֲשֶׁר	רְ	יְבִנָּךְ
H0	H4480	which they of that place	H4725	H1931	H834	shall choose	H977
הָיָה	וְשִׁמְרָת	לְעַשׂ	וְתִּ	כִּי	אֲשֶׁר	רְ	יְגִידָּךְ
which the LORD	thee and thou shalt observe	And thou shalt do	H6213	H3605	H834		
H3068	H8104						
וְיַדְוָבָה:							
according to all that they inform	H3384						