

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 (עַל־פִּי 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 (יִוְרוּךְ, yorukha—'they teach/instruct you'). The verb יָרָה (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

לַעֲשֵׂה וְתָ	עַל	פִּי	הַדָּבָר	אֲשֶׁר	יִגְדֹּל
And thou shalt do	H5921	according to the sentence	H1697	H834	shall shew
H6213		H6310			H5046
מִן	הַמָּקוֹם	וְהָיָה	אֲשֶׁר	יִבְחָר	
H0	H4480	which they of that place	H1931	H834	shall choose
	H4725			H977	
יְהוָה	וְשָׁמַרְתָּ	לַעֲשֵׂה וְתָ	כָּל	אֲשֶׁר	
which the LORD	thee and thou shalt observe	And thou shalt do	H3605	H834	
H3068	H8104	H6213			
יִקְוּ:					
according to all that they inform					
H3384					