

Deuteronomy 18:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

Analysis

Whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name—The Prophet speaks in my name (God's), meaning with divine authority and as God's representative. Shama (hearken) means to hear and obey, not merely acknowledge. **I will require it of him**—Darash (require) is judicial language for holding someone accountable, demanding satisfaction. God Himself will judge those who reject His prophetic word.

This establishes the stakes: rejecting God's chosen Prophet equals rejecting God, bringing covenant curse. Peter cites this in Acts 3:23, applying it to Jesus: 'every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.' The warning is severe because the Prophet delivers God's own words—to disbelieve Him is to disbelieve God. This principle undergirds biblical authority: Scripture, as God's prophetic-apostolic word, carries divine authority. Rejecting it brings judgment (2 Thessalonians 1:8; Hebrews 2:1-4; 12:25).

Historical Context

Moses delivered this warning just before his death, establishing accountability for future generations. Throughout Israel's history, prophets proclaimed God's word and announced judgment on those who refused to listen (Isaiah 6:9-10; Jeremiah 6:10, 17; 7:13; Ezekiel 3:7). Jesus's ministry provoked the same division—those who heard and believed versus those who rejected and perished (John 8:47;

10:26-28). The destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 was the covenantal judgment on Israel's rejection of Jesus the Prophet.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 – Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How seriously do you treat Scripture as God's authoritative word that requires obedient response, not merely intellectual acknowledgment?
2. What does this verse teach about the eternal consequences of rejecting Jesus's message and authority?

Interlinear Text

וְיֹאמֶר אָשֶׁר לֹא יִשְׁמַע H1961 And it shall come to pass that whosoever H376 H834 H3808 will not hearken H8085

אֲלֵיכֶם בְּשָׁמֶן יְדַבֵּר אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר יְהִי רֹאשׁ הַבָּבֶן וְאֶת־
H413 unto my words H834 which he shall speak in my name H595

אָדָר שׁ מְעַטּוֹ: H5973

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 2:3 (Parallel theme): How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him:

Hebrews 10:26 (Parallel theme): For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

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