

# Deuteronomy 26:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This day the LORD thy God hath commanded thee to do these statutes and judgments: thou shalt therefore keep and do them with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.

## Analysis

**This day the LORD thy God hath commanded thee to do these statutes and judgments**—Moses transitions from specific laws to summary exhortation. Hayom hazeh (הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה, 'this day') emphasizes immediacy and urgency—the covenant is now, requiring present decision. **Thou shalt therefore keep and do them with all thine heart, and with all thy soul**—obedience must be wholehearted, not external compliance. The phrase echoes the Shema (6:5): 'Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.'

This verse establishes that covenant obedience isn't mere legal conformity but heart devotion. The distinction between **keep** (Hebrew shamar, שָׁמַר—guard, observe, give heed) and **do** (Hebrew asah, עֲשָׂה—perform, accomplish) suggests both careful attention and active practice. Jesus cited Deuteronomy 6:5 as the greatest commandment (Matthew 22:37), showing that wholehearted devotion to God was always the law's intent, not self-righteous rule-keeping.

## Historical Context

Delivered circa 1406 BC on the plains of Moab as Moses prepared Israel for covenant renewal before entering Canaan. The phrase 'this day' occurs frequently in Deuteronomy (4:40, 5:1, 6:6, 7:11, 8:1, etc.), creating rhetorical urgency: each generation must personally embrace the covenant, not merely inherit it. The wilderness generation that left Egypt had died; their children now faced the same

choice—obey or rebel. Covenant relationship required continual, conscious recommitment, not passive tradition.

## Related Passages

---

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

---

1. What does it mean to obey God's commands 'with all your heart and soul' versus external compliance?
2. Why does Moses emphasize 'this day'—what's the danger of postponing wholehearted commitment?
3. How does Jesus's citation of the Shema reveal the continuity between Old and New Testament spiritual demands?

## Interlinear Text

---

אַתָּה וְעַשְׂ יְתָ	H853	מִצְבָּה	H6680	אֱלֹהִים יְבִרְכֶּה יְהֹוָה הַזֶּה הַיּוֹם	H3117	הַזֶּה הַיּוֹם	H2088	יְהֹוָה הָיְהּ	H3068	אֱלֹהִים	H430	the LORD	H428	These statutes	H2706
וְעַשְׂ יְתָ	H6213	וְעַשְׂ יְתָ	H6213	וְעַשְׂ יְתָ	H6213	וְעַשְׂ יְתָ	H6213	וְעַשְׂ יְתָ	H6213	וְעַשְׂ יְתָ	H6213	וְעַשְׂ יְתָ	H6213	וְעַשְׂ יְתָ	H6213
וְעַשְׂ יְתָ	H8104	וְעַשְׂ יְתָ	H8104	וְעַשְׂ יְתָ	H8104	וְעַשְׂ יְתָ	H8104	וְעַשְׂ יְתָ	H8104	וְעַשְׂ יְתָ	H8104	וְעַשְׂ יְתָ	H8104	וְעַשְׂ יְתָ	H8104
וְעַשְׂ יְתָ	H5315	וְעַשְׂ יְתָ	H5315	וְעַשְׂ יְתָ	H5315	וְעַשְׂ יְתָ	H5315	וְעַשְׂ יְתָ	H5315	וְעַשְׂ יְתָ	H5315	וְעַשְׂ יְתָ	H5315	וְעַשְׂ יְתָ	H5315

## Additional Cross-References

---

**John 14:15** (Parallel theme): If ye love me, keep my commandments.

**Deuteronomy 12:1** (Judgment): These are the statutes and judgments, which ye shall observe to do in the land, which the LORD God of thy fathers giveth thee to possess it, all the days that ye live upon the earth.

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)