

Deuteronomy 27:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Levites shall speak, and say unto all the men of Israel with a loud voice,

Analysis

The Levites shall speak, and say unto all the men of Israel with a loud voice

—The Levites functioned as covenant mediators, positioned between the two mountains to proclaim God's standards to kol-ish Yisrael (all the men of Israel). The instruction qol ram (with a loud voice) wasn't merely practical acoustics but liturgical solemnity—these pronouncements carried divine authority requiring clear, public declaration.

The Levites' role anticipates their ongoing function as teachers of the law (Deuteronomy 33:10, 2 Chronicles 17:7-9) and proclaimers of God's word. They stand as both members of the covenant community (positioned on Gerizim in verse 12) and as mediators between God and people. This dual role foreshadows Christ's perfect mediation—fully human, fully divine, both victim and priest.

The phrase all the men of Israel emphasizes universal accountability. Every member of the covenant community, regardless of tribal affiliation or social status, stood under these covenant sanctions. No one was exempt from God's law or immune to its curses for disobedience.

Historical Context

The Levites' mediatorial role was established at Sinai after the golden calf incident, when they alone remained faithful to God (Exodus 32:26-29). Their assignment to proclaim curses demonstrates that faithful ministry sometimes

requires denouncing sin, not just announcing comfort. The ancient Near East had no equivalent to this dramatic public covenant ceremony—other nations' religious rituals focused on appeasing deities through offerings, not on moral accountability before a righteous God.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How should the Levites' role in proclaiming both blessing and curse inform Christian preaching and teaching today?
2. What does the requirement for 'loud voice' public declaration suggest about the Church's responsibility to speak clearly on sin and judgment?

Interlinear Text

יְשַׁבָּא	לְ	אֵשׁ	אֶל	כָּל	וְאָמַר	וְ	בְּלוֹט	מִ	יְעַנְתָּ	וְ
shall speak	And the Levites	and say	H413	H3605	unto all the men	of Israel				
H6030	H3881	H559			H376	H3478				

לִלְלָה	בְּמִ
voice	with a loud
H6963	H7311

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 9:11 (References Israel): Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against him.

