

Deuteronomy 27:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them. And all the people shall say, Amen.

Analysis

The final curse pronounces: 'Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them. And all the people shall say, Amen.' This comprehensive curse covers all violations—no one can claim to have kept the entire law. The word 'confirmeth' (Hebrew *qum*, to establish/uphold) means actively maintaining and performing the law. The communal 'Amen' signifies covenant acceptance—the people agree to the terms and consequences. Paul quotes this verse (Galatians 3:10) to demonstrate that law-keeping cannot justify, since all fall short; only Christ perfectly fulfilled the law.

Historical Context

The twelve curses (Deuteronomy 27:15-26) covered various sins, both public (idolatry, murder) and secret (moving landmarks, misleading the blind). The final curse encompasses all law violations, making clear that partial obedience is insufficient. Israel's history proved this—repeated law-breaking led to prophetic warnings and eventual exile. Christ bore this curse (Galatians 3:13), satisfying law's demands and enabling justification by faith.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the impossibility of perfectly keeping the law point to the need for Christ?
2. What does the comprehensive nature of this curse teach about God's holiness and justice?

Interlinear Text

לֹא אֶשְׂרָר אֶרְוֹר	יִקְוֶה יִמְ	אֶת	דְּבָרֵי י	הַתּוֹכָה
Cursed	be he that confirmeth	H853	not all the words	of this law
H779	H6965		H1697	H8451
אֲמֵן:	הָעָם	כָּל	וְאֵמַר ר	אֹתָם לַעֲשׂוֹת הִזָּאת
Amen	And all the people	shall say	them	to do
H543	H5971	H559	H3605	H6213

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 3:10 (Word): For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

Romans 10:5 (Word): For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.

Psalms 119:21 (Word): Thou hast rebuked the proud that are cursed, which do err from thy commandments.

Ezekiel 18:24 (Parallel theme): But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that

he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die.

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