

Deuteronomy 27:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt write upon the stones all the words of this law very plainly.

Analysis

And thou shalt write upon the stones all the words of this law very plainly.

The requirement very plainly (Hebrew ba'er heitev - make very clear) emphasizes accessibility. God's law must be clearly written so all can read and understand - no deliberate obscurity or elite knowledge reserving truth for privileged few.

That all the words of this law must be inscribed indicates comprehensive disclosure. God does not hide His requirements but makes them fully known. Humans are accountable because the standards have been clearly revealed.

Public inscription creates corporate witness - the entire nation sees the law and cannot claim ignorance. Clear public declaration of God's requirements establishes accountability for the community.

Reformed theology affirms clarity of Scripture - God's word is sufficiently clear in essential matters so ordinary believers can understand saving truth. While some passages are difficult, core gospel message is accessible to all.

Historical Context

Clearly inscribed law on public monuments made God's requirements accessible in largely illiterate society. Those who could read could teach others, and even the illiterate knew the law existed publicly in written form.

This contrasted with some ancient religions reserving sacred knowledge for priestly elite, keeping common people dependent on intermediaries.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does the requirement for clear writing teach about God's desire to be understood?
2. How does public accessibility create corporate accountability?
3. Why is it important that God's law be comprehensive and clear rather than obscure?
4. What does the clarity of Scripture principle teach about biblical interpretation?
5. How should the church ensure God's word remains accessible to all people?

Interlinear Text

וְכָתַבְתָּ	עַל	הָאֲבָנִים	אֵת	כָּל	דְּבַר י	הַתּוֹרָה
And thou shalt write	H5921	upon the stones	H853	H3605	all the words	of this law
H3789		H68			H1697	H8451
הִטָּב:	בְּיָר	הִזְ	אֵת			
H2063	plainly	very				
	H874	H3190				

Additional Cross-References

Habakkuk 2:2 (Parallel theme): And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

John 16:25 (Parallel theme): These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.

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