

Deuteronomy 30:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?

Analysis

Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? The second rhetorical question eliminates the geographic distance excuse. God's law is not beyond the sea requiring impossible ocean voyages to retrieve. It is present among the covenant community.

Ancient peoples viewed seas as mysterious, dangerous barriers. This imagery suggests that God's requirements are not hidden in inaccessible places requiring extraordinary exploration. He has made His will locally available.

Together with verse 12, this establishes that God's law is neither too high (in heaven) nor too far (beyond the sea). Vertical and horizontal accessibility are both assured - no direction requires impossible journeys to find God's will.

Paul's application extends this to the gospel - the word of faith is near, not requiring someone to bring Christ up from the dead (Romans 10:7-8). Accessibility of revelation becomes accessibility of salvation.

Historical Context

In ancient times, crossing seas required dangerous journeys with high mortality rates. Distant lands across oceans were largely unknown and inaccessible to

common people.

God's placement of His word within Israel's reach demonstrated His gracious condescension, making salvation and covenant requirements accessible to all, not just heroic adventurers.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What excuse does geographic inaccessibility eliminate?
2. How do vertical (heaven) and horizontal (sea) barriers combine to picture total accessibility?
3. What does God's local provision of His word teach about His character?
4. How does Paul extend this principle to gospel accessibility?
5. Why is it crucial that salvation and God's requirements be accessible to common people?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹא יֵעָבֵר עַל בַּר הַיָּם הַזֶּה וְאֵלַי רַחֵם יְיָ
H3808 Neither is it beyond the sea H1931 that thou shouldest say H4310
H5676 H3220 H559

וְיֵעָבֵר לְנוּ אֵל עַל בַּר הַיָּם וְיִקְחֵהָ לְנוּ
Who shall go H0 H413 Neither is it beyond the sea for us and bring H0
H5674 H5676 H3220 H3947

וְיִשְׁמַעֲנוּ אֵת הַיְיָ וְנַעֲשֶׂה
it unto us that we may hear H853 it and do H6213
H8085

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