

Deuteronomy 30:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.

Analysis

And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live. This crucial verse promises internal transformation - circumcise thine heart - pointing beyond external covenant sign to inner spiritual reality. Circumcision of flesh symbolizes cutting away sin's domination from the heart.

The declaration that the LORD...will circumcise identifies this as divine work, not human achievement. People cannot circumcise their own hearts; God must perform this spiritual surgery. This anticipates New Covenant promise of new heart and new spirit (Ezekiel 36:26).

The result of heart circumcision is to love the LORD...with all thine heart - producing wholehearted devotion previously impossible under external law. Internal transformation enables genuine obedience from renewed affections.

Paul later contrasts physical circumcision with circumcision of the heart by the Spirit (Romans 2:29), identifying this as the mark of true covenant membership.

Historical Context

Old covenant prophets recognized Israel's persistent hard-heartedness despite possessing external covenant signs. Jeremiah condemned Israel as having uncircumcised hearts (Jeremiah 9:26).

This promise awaited New Covenant fulfillment through Spirit's regenerating work in believers, producing internal change enabling genuine love and obedience.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does heart circumcision teach about need for internal transformation?
2. Why must God circumcise hearts rather than humans achieving this?
3. How does this anticipate New Covenant promise of new heart?
4. What is the relationship between heart transformation and genuine love for God?
5. How does Paul's teaching on spiritual circumcision fulfill this promise?

Interlinear Text

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|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| וְמִלְאָמָר | לְבַבְךָ | וְאֶת | לְבַבְךָ | וְאֶת | לְבַבְךָ |
| will circumcise | And the LORD | thy God | the heart | and the heart | and the heart |
| H4135 | H3068 | H430 | H853 | H3824 | H3824 |
| וְאֶת לְאַהֲבָה | בְּכָל | אֱלֹהָיֶךָ | לְבַבְךָ | וְאֶת | לְבַבְךָ |
| of thy seed | to love | And the LORD | thy God | and the heart | and the heart |
| H2233 | H157 | H853 | H3068 | H430 | H3824 |
| וְבְכָל נֶפֶשׁ | לְמִצְמָה | מִיכָּה: | | | |
| and with all thy soul | that thou mayest live | | | | |
| H3605 | H4616 | H2416 | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 10:16 (Parallel theme): Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked.

Jeremiah 32:39 (Parallel theme): And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them:

Colossians 2:11 (Parallel theme): In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

Jeremiah 4:4 (References Lord): Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings.

Deuteronomy 6:5 (Love): And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

1 John 4:7 (Love): Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

Matthew 22:37 (Love): Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (Parallel theme): Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Romans 11:26 (References God): And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

1 Corinthians 8:3 (Love): But if any man love God, the same is known of him.

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