

Deuteronomy 4:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go over to possess it.

Analysis

God commanded Moses to 'teach you statutes and judgments' for life in the land—grounding Israel's entire civil and ceremonial code in divine authority. The purpose clause 'that ye might do them' emphasizes that law requires obedience, not merely intellectual assent. The geographical specificity ('in the land whither ye go') demonstrates that biblical law applies to concrete historical situations, not abstract principles alone. This verse establishes the pattern of covenant administration: divine revelation through chosen mediators (Moses, prophets, ultimately Christ) to be obeyed by the covenant community.

Historical Context

These expanded statutes and judgments (Deuteronomy 12-26) go beyond the Ten Commandments, addressing specific situations Israel would encounter in Canaan: worship, sacrifices, festivals, kings, priests, prophets, warfare, property, marriage, and justice. Moses delivered these laws on Moab's plains circa 1406 BC as Israel prepared to cross Jordan. These ordinances would govern Israel's theocratic society for centuries.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Moses' role as covenant mediator prefigure Christ's superior mediation of the New Covenant?
2. What does the connection between law and land possession teach about obedience as the pathway to covenant blessing?

Interlinear Text

וְאַתָּה	צִוָּה	יְהוָה	בְּעֵת	בְּהָא	לְמַד
H853	commanded	And the LORD	me at that time	H1931	to teach
H6680		H3068	H6256		H3925
אַתָּךְ	מְלֵא	מְלֵא	לְעַשְׂתָּךְ	אַתָּה	בְּאָרֶץ
H853	you statutes	and judgments	that ye might do	H853	them in the land
H2706		H4941	H6213		H776
אֲשֶׁר	עֲבֹר	עֲבֹר	שֶׁ	לְרֹשְׁתָה:	
H834	whither ye go over	H5674	H8033	to possess	
				H3423	

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org