

Deuteronomy 4:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These are the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which Moses spake unto the children of Israel, after they came forth out of Egypt,

Analysis

These are the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which Moses spake unto the children of Israel, after they came forth out of Egypt.

Moses identifies three categories of divine instruction: *edot* (עֲדוֹת, 'testimonies') are declarations that bear witness to God's character and requirements; *chuqqim* (חֻקִּים, 'statutes') are fixed ordinances and regulations; *mishpatim* (מִשְׁפָּטִים, 'judgments') are case laws and judicial decisions. Together they comprehensively order Israel's relationship with God and neighbor.

The timing is significant: *betseitam miMitsrayim* (בְּצֵאתָם מִמִּצְרָיִם, 'after they came forth out of Egypt'). Law follows redemption, not vice versa. Israel was not delivered because they obeyed; they were instructed how to live because they were delivered. Grace precedes law; redemption creates the context for obedience. This sequence—redemption then instruction—pervades Scripture and reaches climax in the gospel, where we obey not to be saved but because we are saved (Ephesians 2:8-10).

These categories of law address different aspects of covenant life. Testimonies remind Israel of God's saving acts and character. Statutes provide structure for worship and daily life. Judgments resolve disputes and establish justice. Together they form a comprehensive vision for human flourishing under divine authority—what it looks like when the redeemed live as God's people.

Historical Context

Moses identifies the content of his teaching as testimonies, statutes, and judgments delivered to Israel after the Exodus. Having left Egypt approximately 40 years earlier and conquered the trans-Jordan territory, Israel now stood ready to enter Canaan. This legal instruction was essential preparation for establishing a society under God's rule.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the sequence of redemption before law shape your understanding of the relationship between grace and obedience?
2. What role do 'testimonies' (reminders of what God has done) play in motivating your own obedience?

Interlinear Text

אֵלֶּה	הָעֵדוּת	וְהַחֻקִּים	וְהַמִּשְׁפָּטִים	אֲשֶׁר	
H428	These are the testimonies	and the statutes	and the judgments	H834	
	H5713	H2706	H4941		
דָּבָר	מֹשֶׁה	אֶל	בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל	בְּצֵאתָם	
spake	which Moses	H413	unto the children	of Israel	after they came forth
H1696	H4872		H1121	H3478	H3318
מִמִּצְרַיִם:					
out of Egypt					
H4714					

