

Deuteronomy 4:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it.

Analysis

Moses' claim 'I have taught you statutes and judgments' establishes the Mosaic law as divinely revealed, not human invention. The purpose clause 'even as the LORD my God commanded me' grounds all instruction in divine authority. This verse emphasizes that proper living in the land requires adherence to God's revealed will. From a Reformed perspective, this illustrates the regulative principle—God alone determines acceptable worship and conduct. The law functions pedagogically, revealing God's holiness and humanity's need for redemption, ultimately pointing to Christ who fulfills all righteousness (Matthew 5:17).

Historical Context

Delivered on the plains of Moab circa 1406 BC, just before Israel's Canaan entry. Moses had received the law at Sinai 40 years earlier (Exodus 19-24) and now rehearses it for the second generation. These statutes and judgments governed civil, ceremonial, and moral life, distinguishing Israel from surrounding pagan nations. The law would serve as Israel's covenant constitution in the promised land.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Moses' appeal to divine authorization ('as the LORD...commanded') establish the foundation for biblical authority?
2. In what ways does Old Testament law continue to instruct Christians about God's character and holiness?

Interlinear Text

רֵא הִנֵּה	לִמַּנְתִּי	אֶתְּךָ	חֻקִּים	וּמִשְׁפָּטִים	אֲשֶׁר
Behold	I have taught	H853	you statutes	and judgments	even as
H7200	H3925		H2706	H4941	H834
צִוֵּנִי	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵי	לַעֲשׂוֹת	כִּי	בְּרַב
commanded	the LORD	my God	me that ye should do	H3651	so in
H6680	H3068	H430	H6213		H7130
					H776
אֲשֶׁר	אֵתְּ	בָּאֵי	שָׁמָּה	לְרִשְׁתָּהּ:	
even as	H859	whither ye go	H8033	to possess	
H834		H935		H3423	

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 28:20 (Parallel theme): Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Hebrews 3:5 (Parallel theme): And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;

Deuteronomy 4:1 (Judgment): Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you.

Acts 20:27 (References God): For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

1 Corinthians 15:3 (Parallel theme): For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

1 Corinthians 11:28 (Parallel theme): But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.