

Deuteronomy 5:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them.

Analysis

Moses summons 'all Israel' to hear the statutes and judgments, emphasizing communal responsibility and covenant unity. The command to 'hear, O Israel' (Shema Yisrael) becomes central to Jewish identity. The threefold imperative —'hear,' 'learn,' 'keep and do'—establishes the proper sequence: reception of God's word, understanding through study, and obedient application. The Hebrew 'shamar' (keep/observe) implies careful guarding and preserving, while 'asah' (do) means active performance. Hearing without doing is covenant violation.

Historical Context

This verse introduces Moses' recitation of the Ten Commandments to the second generation (Deuteronomy 5:6-21). While the first generation heard the commandments directly at Sinai (Exodus 20), this generation needs instruction as they prepare to enter Canaan. Moses' rehearsal of covenant law establishes intergenerational continuity and emphasizes that covenant obligations don't expire with the original recipients but continue across generations.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the progression from hearing to learning to doing shape your approach to Scripture?
2. What does Moses' rehearsal of the law to a new generation teach about passing faith to the next generation?

Interlinear Text

וְקָרָא אֶל	מֹשֶׁה	אֶל	כָּל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	וַיֹּאמֶר	אֵלָּהּ
called	And Moses	H413	H3605	O Israel	and said	H413
H7121	H4872			H3478	H559	
שָׁמַע עַל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֶת	הַחֻקִּים	וְאֵת	הַמִּשְׁפָּטִים	אֲשֶׁר
unto them Hear	O Israel	H853	the statutes	H853	and judgments	H834
H8085	H3478		H2706		H4941	
אֲנִי	דֹבֵר	בְּאָזְנֵיכֶם	הַיּוֹם	וְלִמְדֶתֶם	אֹתָם	
H595	which I speak	in your ears	this day	that ye may learn	H853	
	H1696	H241	H3117	H3925		
וְשָׁמַרְתֶּם	לַעֲשׂוֹתָם					
them and keep	and do					
H8104	H6213					

Additional Cross-References

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.

Matthew 23:3 (Parallel theme): All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.