

Deuteronomy 5:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD heard the voice of your words, when ye spake unto me; and the LORD said unto me, I have heard the voice of the words of this people, which they have spoken unto thee: they have well said all that they have spoken.

Analysis

God's approval 'I have heard the voice of the people...they have well said' commends Israel's appropriate fear and commitment to obedience. God Himself validates the need for mediation—He doesn't rebuke their request for Moses to intercede. This demonstrates that God establishes the means (mediation) by which covenant relationship functions. The phrase 'they have well said' shows that initial covenant profession pleased God, though subsequent unfaithfulness proved their need for heart transformation. This verse illustrates that right theology (understanding need for mediation, committing to obedience) without heart renewal produces mere external religion.

Historical Context

God's approval of Israel's request established the pattern of mediated revelation continuing throughout redemptive history. Prophets delivered God's Word; priests offered sacrifices and interceded; kings governed as God's representatives. This mediatorial structure pointed forward to Christ who perfectly fulfills all three offices—Prophet, Priest, and King. Yet even with proper structure and initial commitment, Israel repeatedly violated covenant, demonstrating that external religion without regeneration fails.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God's approval of Israel's request for mediation demonstrate that He ordains the means by which His people approach Him?
2. What does the tension between God's approval of their words and knowledge of their future unfaithfulness reveal about the insufficiency of external religion?

Interlinear Text

שָׁמַעַתִּי	יְהוָה	אֶת	קוֹל	דְּבַר י'
heard	And the LORD	H853	the voice	of the words
H8085	H3068		H6963	H1697
דָּבָרוּ:	וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי	יְהוָה	שָׁמַעַתִּי	אֵלַי
said all that they have spoken	H413	said	And the LORD	H413
H1696		H559	H3068	H8085
אֶת	קוֹל	דְּבַר י'	הָעָם	אֲשֶׁר הִזָּה
H853	the voice	of the words	of this people	H2088
	H6963	H1697	H5971	H834
דָּבָרוּ:	אֵלַי יְיָ	הֵיטֵב יָבוּ	אֲשֶׁר	כָּל
said all that they have spoken	H413	unto thee they have well	H3605	H834
H1696		H3190		
דָּבָרוּ:				
said all that they have spoken				
H1696				

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 18:17 (References Lord): And the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken.

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