

Deuteronomy 5:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Go say to them, Get you into your tents again.

Analysis

God's directive 'Go say to them, Get you into your tents again' dismisses the congregation while retaining Moses for further instruction. This establishes the pattern: God reveals to His chosen mediator, who then instructs the people. The people return to ordinary life while Moses remains in God's presence—illustrating that covenant relationship requires both mediator and revelation. The Reformed understanding of church authority follows this pattern: ordained ministers expound Scripture to the congregation. God doesn't reveal directly to every individual but through appointed means (ministry of the Word).

Historical Context

After the Sinai theophany and covenant commitment, the people returned to their tents while Moses ascended Sinai to receive detailed law (Exodus 20-24). This pattern repeated throughout Israel's history: prophets received God's Word privately, then publicly proclaimed it. The congregation gathered for instruction but relied on ordained mediators. This prefigures the New Testament pattern where Christ called and commissioned apostles who established churches through Word and sacrament ministry.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does this pattern of mediated revelation establish the principle of ordained ministry as God's appointed means of instructing His people?
2. What does this verse teach about the relationship between private devotion and corporate worship, individual study and public preaching?

Interlinear Text

וְאָמַרְתָּ	לְךָ	שׁוּבוּ	לְכָם	לְאֹהֲלֵיכֶם:
H1980	say H559	H0	again H7725	H0 you into your tents H168

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