

Deuteronomy 5:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess.

Analysis

The command 'Ye shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God hath commanded you' employs the metaphor of walking for covenant obedience. The Hebrew 'halak' (walk) indicates lifestyle, habitual conduct, comprehensive life direction. The purpose clauses reveal obedience's blessings: 'that ye may live' (spiritual vitality), 'that it may be well with you' (prosperity), 'that ye may prolong your days' (longevity). These promises are covenantal—obedience brings blessing; disobedience, curse. Yet Israel's failure proved that law cannot save; only grace transforms hearts to walk in God's ways (Galatians 5:16, 25).

Historical Context

This summary exhortation concludes Moses' rehearsal of the Ten Commandments and introduces detailed law exposition (Deuteronomy 6-26). The 'ways' include moral law (Ten Commandments), civil ordinances, and ceremonial regulations governing Israel's theocratic society in Canaan. Obedience would result in agricultural prosperity, military victory, and peace. Disobedience brought drought, defeat, and exile (Deuteronomy 28). Israel's tragic history validated that covenant blessing requires faithful obedience produced only through regeneration.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the metaphor of 'walking' in God's ways emphasize that obedience involves comprehensive lifestyle, not isolated acts?
2. What does Israel's inability to consistently walk in God's ways teach about humanity's need for divine grace to produce genuine obedience?

Interlinear Text

אֱלֹהִים מֶלֶךְ בְּכָל יְהוָה הָצַר אֲשֶׁר בְּצָר הָצָר בְּכָל
H3605 in all the ways H1870 H834 hath commanded H6680 H3068 H430 your God

לֹכֶד מְלֹא כָּל לְמַעַן תְּלִיל כָּל אֶתְכָּה מְלֹא כָּל לְמַעַן תְּלִיל כָּל אֶתְכָּה
H853 H1980 H4616 H2421 H2895 H0 you that ye may live and that it may be well

אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶרְכָּת מִימִים יְמִינָה וְאֶרְכָּת מִימִים יְמִינָה
with you and that ye may prolong your days in the land H834 H776 H3117 H748

תִּרְשֹׁוּ:
which ye shall possess
H3423

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 7:23 (References God): But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.

Deuteronomy 4:40 (References God): Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes, and his commandments, which I command thee this day, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days upon the earth, which the LORD thy God giveth thee, for ever.

Luke 1:6 (References God): And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

1 Timothy 4:8 (References God): For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

Deuteronomy 10:12 (References God): And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,

Romans 2:7 (Parallel theme): To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

Psalms 119:6 (Parallel theme): Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.