

Deuteronomy 8:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day:

Analysis

Moses continues: 'Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.' The 'therefore' connects God's fatherly discipline (verse 5) to obedient response—proper understanding of God's character produces reverence and obedience. 'Walk in his ways' presents the Christian life as a journey, requiring daily faithfulness. The 'fear' of God (yirah) is both reverential awe and practical wisdom—recognizing God's authority and aligning life accordingly.

Historical Context

This command anticipates Israel's entrance into Canaan, where they'll face temptations to adopt Canaanite practices and worship Canaanite deities. Walking in God's ways would distinguish Israel from surrounding nations, making them a 'holy nation' (Exodus 19:6). Israel's later syncretism and idolatry demonstrated failure to fear God and walk in His ways, resulting in prophetic warnings and eventual exile.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does it mean practically to 'walk in God's ways' in your daily decisions?
2. How does the 'fear of the LORD' function as 'the beginning of wisdom' in your life?

Interlinear Text

לְבַלֵּת י אֱלֹהֵי יְיָ יְהוָה אֶת תִּשְׁכַּח פֶּן לֵךְ שָׁמַר ר
Beware H8104 H0 H6435 **that thou forget** H7911 H853 **not the LORD** H3068 **thy God** H430 H1115

אֲנֹכִי אֲשֶׁר וְחֻקֹּתַי וּמִשְׁפָּטַי וּמִצְוֹתָיו שָׁמַר ר
Beware H8104 **his commandments** H4687 **and his judgments** H4941 **and his statutes** H2708 H834 H595

הַיּוֹם: מֵעַכְשָׁיו
which I command H6680 **thee this day** H3117

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 106:21 (References God): They forgat God their saviour, which had done great things in Egypt;

Proverbs 1:32 (Parallel theme): For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.