

Deuteronomy 9:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass at the end of forty days and forty nights, that the LORD gave me the two tables of stone, even the tables of the covenant.

Analysis

And it came to pass at the end of forty days and forty nights, that the LORD gave me the two tables of stone, even the tables of the covenant. The stone tablets represent God's permanent, authoritative revelation of His moral law inscribed by His own finger.

The number forty signifies testing, preparation, and divine completion throughout Scripture. Moses' forty-day fast on Sinai parallels Christ's forty-day temptation, both involving confrontation with God's word in contexts of testing.

These tablets contain the Ten Commandments - the fundamental moral law reflecting God's character and governing all human relationships. Written in stone, they represent the unchanging, permanent nature of God's moral requirements. Reformed theology affirms the perpetual validity of the moral law summarized in the Decalogue.

The designation tables of the covenant identifies these commandments as the constitutional core of God's covenant with Israel, defining the relationship between the holy God and His chosen people.

Historical Context

This occurred at Mount Sinai (also called Horeb in Deuteronomy) after Israel's exodus from Egypt. While Moses communed with God on the mountain, Israel sinned by creating the golden calf, breaking the covenant even as it was being established.

The stone tablets written by God's finger demonstrated divine origin and authority - these were not human laws but revelation from heaven.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does it mean that God wrote the law with His own finger rather than dictating it to Moses?
2. How do the stone tablets symbolize the permanent nature of God's moral law?
3. Why did God choose to reveal His covenant in written form rather than oral tradition alone?
4. How does Moses' forty-day fast prefigure Christ's ministry and temptation?
5. In what sense do Christians remain obligated to the moral law written on these tablets?

Interlinear Text

וַיְהִי	מִקְרָא	וְאֶרְבָּעִים	וְאֶרְבָּעִים	לְלִהְיוֹת
H1961	And it came to pass at the end	H7093	and forty	days
			H705	and forty
			H3117	nights
גַּave	that the LORD	H413	me the two	פָּאָבָן יָמִים
H5414	H3068	H853	H8147	even the tables of stone
			H3871	H68
לְלִחְיוֹת	בְּבִרְית:			
even the tables	of the covenant	H3871	H1285	

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 9:9 (Covenant): When I was gone up into the mount to receive the tables of stone, even the tables of the covenant which the LORD made with you, then I abode in the mount forty days and forty nights, I neither did eat bread nor drink water:

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