

Exodus 19:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.

Analysis

And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.

Israel's unanimous response 'we will do' (נָעֲשֶׂה, na'aseh) sounds commendable but proves tragically overconfident—within weeks they'll worship the golden calf. This premature 'we will do' (works) precedes 'we will hear' (faith), reversing the proper order. At Sinai's renewal (Exodus 24:7), they say 'we will do and hear,' still emphasizing performance over receptivity. The contrast with the New Covenant is stark: Christ says 'It is finished'—He does what we cannot, and we respond in faith-obedience. Moses reports their words to the LORD, completing the mediatorial loop—representative covenant ratification awaits God's response.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern vassal treaties typically involved the vassal swearing loyalty to the suzerain. Israel's enthusiastic response mirrors this pattern, though their subsequent failures reveal human inability to maintain covenant faithfulness apart from divine enablement.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does Israel's confident 'we will do' reveal about human nature's tendency toward self-reliance?
2. How does the New Covenant address the problem exposed by Israel's failed 'we will do'?

Interlinear Text

אָשָׁר	כִּי	לִזְהָר	אָמַר	וְ	יַחֲדָה	כָּל	בָּעֵם	יָעַנְךָ	וְ
answered	H3605	And all the people	together	and said	H3605	H834			
H6030		H5971	H3162	H559					
דָּבָר	וְ	יְהִיָּה	נָעַשְׁת	וְשָׁבָת	מֵשֶׁה	אֶת	דָּבָר	וְ	
hath spoken	All that the LORD	we will do	returned	And Moses	H4872	H853	the words	H1697	
H1696	H3068	H6213	H7725	H4872					
בָּעֵם	וְ	יְהִיָּה							
And all the people	H413	All that the LORD							
H5971		H3068							

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 24:7 (References Lord): And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient.

Exodus 24:3 (Word): And Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the LORD hath said will we do.

Nehemiah 10:29 (Word): They clave to their brethren, their nobles, and entered into a curse, and into an oath, to walk in God's law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the LORD our Lord, and his judgments and his statutes;

Exodus 20:19 (References Moses): And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.

Joshua 24:24 (References Lord): And the people said unto Joshua, The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.

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