

Exodus 23:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And in all things that I have said unto you be circumspect: and make no mention of the name of other gods, neither let it be heard out of thy mouth.

Analysis

And in all things that I have said unto you be circumspect: and make no mention of the name of other gods, neither let it be heard out of thy mouth.

This command shapes Israel's covenant community life, applying moral law to social relationships. God's justice concerns everyday matters—truthfulness, fairness, compassion. The accumulation of ordinances creates comprehensive ethic governing Israelite society. These aren't arbitrary rules but revelations of God's character. He is just, merciful, truthful; His people must reflect these attributes. New Testament ethics build on this foundation, radicalizing commands while maintaining their spirit.

Historical Context

The Book of the Covenant concludes with liturgical calendar and worship regulations, integrating Israel's civil, moral, and ceremonial life under God's comprehensive rule.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does this law reveal God's character—His justice, mercy, or holiness?
2. What New Testament principles build upon or fulfill this Old Testament regulation?

Interlinear Text

וְכָל ל	אֲשֶׁר	אֲמַרְתִּי	אֵלֶיךָ	תִּשְׁמְרוּ
H3605	H834	H559	H413	H8104
		And in all things that I have said		unto you be circumspect
וְשֵׁם	אֱלֹהֵי יָם	אֲחֵרִים	לֹא	תִזְכְּרוּ
H8034	H430	H312	H3808	H2142
of the name	gods	of other	and make no mention	
וְשֵׁם ע	עַל	פִּי:		
H8085	H5921	H6310		
neither let it be heard	out	of thy mouth		

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 23:7 (References God): That ye come not among these nations, these that remain among you; neither make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause to swear by them, neither serve them, nor bow yourselves unto them:

Zechariah 13:2 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land.

1 Timothy 4:16 (Parallel theme): Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

Deuteronomy 4:9 (Parallel theme): Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;

Hosea 2:17 (Parallel theme): For I will take away the names of Baalim out of her mouth, and they shall no more be remembered by their name.

Psalms 16:4 (References God): Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god: their drink offerings of blood will I not offer, nor take up their names into my lips.

Deuteronomy 12:3 (References God): And ye shall overthrow their altars, and break their pillars, and burn their groves with fire; and ye shall hew down the graven images of their gods, and destroy the names of them out of that place.

Hebrews 12:15 (References God): Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Jeremiah 10:11 (References God): Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens.

Ephesians 5:15 (Parallel theme): See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,