

Exodus 24:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath spoken will we do, and be obedient.

'Book of the covenant' (סֵפֶר הַבְּרִית, sefer haberit)—the written law Moses penned (v. 4), probably Exodus 20:22-23:33. Reading in their hearing makes them legally accountable—they heard, understood, agreed. Their response adds 'be obedient' (וְנִשְׁמָעָה, venishma, 'and we will hear/obey') to previous 'we will do' (v. 3). Still backwards—'do and hear' rather than 'hear and do.' Faith hears God's voice then responds obediently; works try doing before hearing. Israel's performance-focus instead of faith-focus dooms the covenant. Christ hears perfectly ('not my will but yours,' Luke 22:42) and obeys fully (Philippians 2:8).

Historical Context

The 'Book of the Covenant' is the first recorded section of Scripture. Reading the law aloud in covenant ceremonies is repeated throughout Israel's history (Deuteronomy 31:11, Joshua 8:34, 2 Kings 23:2, Nehemiah 8:3).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What is the significance of reading the covenant terms before ratification—why written and oral proclamation?
2. Why is 'we will do and hear' backwards—how does this reveal Israel's works-orientation?

Interlinear Text

וְקָח	סֵפֶר	הַבְּרִית	וְקָרָא	בְּאָזְנוֹ י	הָעָם
And he took	the book	of the covenant	and read	in the audience	of the people
H3947	H5612	H1285	H7121	H241	H5971
וַיֹּאמְרוּ	כֹּל	אֲשֶׁר	דָּבָר	יְהוָה	נַעֲשֶׂה ה
and they said	H3605	H834	hath said	All that the LORD	will we do
H559			H1696	H3068	H6213
וְנִשְׁמָע:					
and be obedient					
H8085					

Additional Cross-References

1 Thessalonians 5:27 (References Lord): I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren.

Acts 13:15 (Parallel theme): And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, Ye men and brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.

Colossians 4:16 (Parallel theme): And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

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