

Exodus 32:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves to day to the LORD, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day.

Analysis

Moses' declaration (מְלָא אֶת־יָדֶךָ מִלְּעָדָה לִיהְיוֹת ל'אֱלֹהִים) uses the idiom 'fill your hand,' the technical term for priestly ordination. The phrase (כִּי אִישׁ בְּבִנּוֹ וּבָאֶחָיו) (ki ish bivno uve-achiv, for every man has been against his son and against his brother) indicates their consecration came through choosing God over family. The result (וְלֹתַת אֲלֵיכֶם פִּיּוֹם בְּרָכָה—ve-latet aleichem hayyom berachah, to bestow upon you a blessing this day)—shows that costly obedience yields divine blessing. This prefigures Jesus' teaching that following Him costs family relationships (Luke 14:26).

Historical Context

The Levites' action here secured their role as Israel's priestly tribe (Num 3:12, Deut 33:9-11). Their willingness to execute judgment on family members qualified them to mediate between God and people.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What relationships must you subordinate to obedience to God?
2. How does costly obedience today result in blessing and greater usefulness to God?

Interlinear Text

כִּי לִיהְיוֹת הַיְאֹתֶר מִשְׁתַּחַת מְלֹא כָּל הַיּוֹם
had said For Moses Consecrate yourselves H3027 this day to the LORD even
H559 H4872 H4390 H3117 H3068 H3588

עַלְיָכֶם וְלֹתָת תְּבִנֵּה וְבָנָה וְעַלְיָכֶם
every man upon his son and upon his brother that he may bestow H5921
H376 H1121 H251 H5414

בָּרוּךְ הַיּוֹם

this day upon you a blessing
H3117 H1293

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 13:3 (References Lord): And it shall come to pass, that when any shall yet prophesy, then his father and his mother that begat him shall say unto him, Thou shalt not live; for thou speakest lies in the name of the LORD: and his father and his mother that begat him shall thrust him through when he prophesieth.

Matthew 10:37 (Parallel theme): He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Proverbs 21:3 (References Lord): To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.