

Exodus 34:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto Moses, Write thou these words: for after the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with thee and with Israel.

Analysis

The angel requires strict obedience—he 'will not pardon your transgressions' because God's name (authority and character) is in him. This is not contradicting God's mercy proclaimed in v. 6-7, but emphasizing that divine presence demands holiness. Rebellion against God's messenger is rebellion against God Himself. Obedience to the angel-guide ensures covenant blessing; disobedience brings judgment.

Historical Context

This warning proved prophetic—Israel's repeated rebellion in the wilderness (Num 14, 16, 20, 25) brought judgment. The generation that left Egypt (except Joshua and Caleb) died in the wilderness for unbelief.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the presence of God both bless and make demands on His people?

2. What does it mean that Christ, God's final messenger, requires perfect obedience yet provides it on our behalf?

Interlinear Text

בְּדָבָר יְמִין אָמַר יְהֹוָה אֱלֹהִים מֵשֶׁה כְּתַב לְבָבְךָ אֶת לְבָבְךָ כִּי אָמַר
said And the LORD unto Moses Write of these words
H559 H3068 H413 H4872 H3789 H0 H853 H1697

כִּי עַל כֵּן פְּתַת כִּי פְּתַת כִּי לְהָה
for after the tenor of these words I have made
H428 H3588 H5921 H6310 H1697 H428 H3772

אֶת בְּרִית יְהֹוָה אֶת שְׁבָאָל
a covenant with thee and with Israel
H854 H1285 H854 H3478

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 24:4 (Word): And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel.

Deuteronomy 31:9 (Covenant): And Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests the sons of Levi, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and unto all the elders of Israel.

Exodus 17:14 (References Lord): And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

Deuteronomy 4:13 (Covenant): And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone.