

Ezekiel 20:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I gave them my statutes, and shewed them my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them.

Analysis

'And I gave them my statutes, and shewed them my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them.' At Sinai, God gave Torah—statutes (chuqqim) and judgments (mishpatim). The promise: 'if a man do, he shall...live in them.' This principle (also Leviticus 18:5, quoted by Paul in Romans 10:5, Galatians 3:12) establishes the law's standard. Perfect obedience would bring life; disobedience brings death. Since no one (except Christ) perfectly obeys, the law reveals need for grace.

Historical Context

The Sinai covenant (Exodus 19-24) gave Israel the law as covenant stipulations. The law wasn't a means of earning salvation but the lifestyle of a redeemed people. Obedience would bring blessing in the land; disobedience would bring curse and exile (Deuteronomy 28-30).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What is the relationship between law-keeping and life in Old vs. New Covenants?
2. How does the law's standard drive us to Christ who perfectly fulfilled it?

Interlinear Text

וְאֶת־יְהֹוָה לְקַיּוֹת־אֶת־עֲדָת־יְהֹוָה
And I gave them my statutes and shewed them my judgments
H5414 H853 H2708 H853 H4941

וְאֶת־הַזְּדָקָה אֲשֶׁר־יְשַׁׁעַת־הָאָדָם אֲשֶׁר־יְהֹוָה עֲשָׂה
which if a man doth those things which if a man do, he shall live in them
H120 H6213 H834 H853

וְאֶת־יְהֹוָה
he shall even live
H2425 H853

Additional Cross-References

Romans 10:5 (Parallel theme): For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.

Deuteronomy 4:8 (Judgment): And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?

Leviticus 18:5 (Judgment): Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD.

Luke 10:28 (Parallel theme): And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

Galatians 3:12 (Parallel theme): And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.

Ezekiel 20:13 (Judgment): But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness: they walked not in my statutes, and they despised my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; and my sabbaths they greatly polluted: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them in the wilderness, to consume them.

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