

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

וָאֶת־	לָהֶם	אֶת־	חֻקֹּתַי	וָאֶת־	מִשְׁפָּטַי
And I gave	H0	H853	them my statutes	H853	them my judgments
H5414			H2708		H4941
וַיִּשְׁמַעְךָ	הוֹדִי עֲוֹנִי	אֹתָם	אֲשֶׁר	יַעֲשֶׂה	הָאָדָם
and shewed	H853	H834	do	H853	which if a man
H3045			H6213		H120
וְחַי	בָּהֶם:				
he shall even live	H0				
H2425					

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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