Ezekiel 43:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> And if they be ashamed of all that they have done, shew them the form of the house, and the fashion thereof, and the goings out thereof, and the comings in thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the laws thereof: and write it in their sight, that they may keep the whole form thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and do them.

Analysis

Conditional upon shame ('if they be ashamed'), God commands comprehensive instruction: 'shew them the form... fashion... goings out... comings in... forms... ordinances... laws.' The repetition emphasizes thoroughness—nothing withheld. The instruction must be written ('write it in their sight') for permanence and accuracy. The purpose: 'that they may keep the whole form... and do them.' Revelation aims at obedience, not mere knowledge. The phrase 'the whole form' warns against selective obedience—God's standards form an integrated whole. Reformed theology emphasizes the regulative principle: worship according to Scripture alone, not human innovation. The command to write it recalls Moses writing the law (Exodus 24:4, Deuteronomy 31:9), ensuring accurate transmission across generations. God provides His Word clearly, completely, and permanently so His people can obey without excuse.

Historical Context

Written revelation distinguished Israel from oral-tradition-based ancient cultures. Moses wrote the law (Deuteronomy 31:24-26), prophets' words were recorded (Jeremiah 36:1-4, Isaiah 8:16), and exilic/post-exilic communities treasured written Scripture (Nehemiah 8:1-8). The command to write the temple vision parallels Habakkuk's instruction to 'write the vision, and make it plain upon tables' (Habakkuk 2:2). Written text prevents distortion across time and distance. The exiles, who maintained identity through Scripture during captivity (Daniel 9:2 references Jeremiah's writings), understood written revelation's importance. The comprehensive detail ('all the forms... all the ordinances... all the laws') prevented innovative worship corrupting true worship—the error that led to exile. This principle continues in New Testament apostolic teaching (2 Thessalonians 2:15, 3:6, 2 Timothy 1:13-14).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How seriously do you study God's written Word to know 'the whole form' rather than selected favorite passages?
2. What does comprehensive obedience ('keep the whole form... do them') look like versus selective compliance with convenient commands?
3. Does this verse challenge worship innovation not grounded in Scripture— adding human traditions to divine ordinances?

Interlinear Text

וְאִם   נִכְלְמ וּ   מִכֹּ ל   אֲשֶׁר   וְעָשׂ וּ

H518   **And if they be ashamed**   H3605   H834   **of all that they have done**
     H3637   H6213

צוּרָת וֹ   הַבַּ יִת   וּתְכוּנָת וֹ   וּמוֹצָאָ יו

in thereof and all the forms   **of the house**   **and the fashion**   **thereof and the goings out**
H6699   H1004   H8498   H4161

וּמוֹבָאָ יו   וְכָל   צוּרָת וֹ   וְאֵ ת   כָּל

thereof and the comings   H3605   **in thereof and all the forms**   H853   H3605
H4126   H6699

חֻקֹּתָ יו   וְכָל   צוּרָת וֹ   וְכָל

thereof and all the ordinances   H3605   **in thereof and all the forms**   H3605
H2708   H6699

תּוֹרֹתָו   הוֹדַ ע   אוֹתָ ם   וּכְתֹ ב   לְעֵינֵיהֶ ם

thereof and all the laws   **shew**   H853   **thereof and write**   **it in their sight**
H8451   H3045   H3789   H5869

וְיִשְׁמְר וּ   אֵת   כָּל   צוּרָת וֹ   וְאֵת   כָּל

that they may keep   H853   H3605   **in thereof and all the forms**   H853   H3605
H8104   H6699

חֻקֹּתָ יו   וְעָשׂ וּ   אוֹתָם:

thereof and all the ordinances   **of all that they have done**   H853
H2708   H6213

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 11:20 (Parallel theme): That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

Ezekiel 36:27 (Parallel theme): And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.