

Jeremiah 17:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass, if ye diligently hearken unto me, saith the LORD, to bring in no burden through the gates of this city on the sabbath day, but hallow the sabbath day, to do no work therein;

Analysis

God offers conditional blessing: "If ye diligently hearken unto me" establishes that covenant blessings depend on obedience. The Hebrew construction emphasizes intentional, careful attention—not casual hearing but devoted obedience. The specific focus remains Sabbath observance: bringing no burden through the gates on the Sabbath and hallowing the day by ceasing from work.

This conditional promise reflects the covenant structure throughout Scripture—obedience brings blessing, disobedience brings curse (Deut 28). While Reformed theology emphasizes unconditional election unto salvation, sanctification involves genuine human obedience empowered by grace. God's commands are not arbitrary but pathways to human flourishing under His lordship.

The offered blessings (vv. 25-26) include political stability, continued Davidic dynasty, and worship at the temple—all covenant promises. Yet history shows Judah failed to meet the condition, bringing judgment instead. This points to the need for the new covenant, where God's law is written on hearts (Jer 31:33) and obedience flows from regeneration rather than mere external compulsion. Christ fulfilled the law perfectly, securing blessings for His people by His obedience (Rom 5:19).

Historical Context

Conditional covenant blessings characterize the Mosaic covenant (Ex 19:5, Lev 26:3-13, Deut 28:1-14). While God's electing love for Israel was unconditional (Deut 7:7-8), experiencing covenant blessings required obedience. The prophets consistently called Israel to repentance, offering restoration if they returned to covenant faithfulness (Jer 4:1-4, 7:3-7, Amos 5:4-6). Judah's refusal to heed these conditions resulted in exile.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you balance understanding salvation as unconditional grace while recognizing that obedience leads to blessing?
2. What role does human obedience play in your sanctification and experience of God's promises?
3. How does Christ's perfect obedience secure for believers what Israel failed to achieve through covenant-keeping?

Interlinear Text

אָמַן בְּקִיָּה

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H518

תִּשְׁמַע וְ

And it shall come to pass if ye diligently

H8085

And it shall come to pass if ye diligently

H8085

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לְבָلָת וְיְהִי הָ

H413

unto me saith

the LORD

no

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H3068

H1115

לְבָב יְאָמֵן

H935

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H4853

בְּשַׁעַר וְ

H8179

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H5892

וְלֹא תִּבְאַר בְּזַעַם יְהִי

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on the sabbath

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H7676

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H853

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מְלָאכָה: כָּל

H3605

work

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Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 11:13 (References Lord): And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul,

Exodus 15:26 (References Lord): And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.