

Joshua 22:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Analysis

Joshua's charge to Transjordan tribes—"But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul"—comprehensively summarizes covenant faithfulness. Love, walking, keeping, cleaving, serving—together these represent total devotion. The dual focus on heart and soul ensures internal reality matches external compliance.

Historical Context

This farewell charge to Reuben, Gad, and half-Manasseh occurred as they returned east of Jordan after fulfilling their commitment to help conquer Canaan (1:12-18). Their separation from the main tribes created concern about maintaining unity, addressed through altar construction (verses 10-34). Joshua's emphasis on covenant faithfulness shows that geographical distance shouldn't produce spiritual drift. The charge's language echoes Deuteronomy, maintaining Mosaic teaching's authority.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do you maintain spiritual faithfulness when separated from regular fellowship and accountability?
2. What comprehensive covenant obedience looks like practically in loving, walking, keeping, cleaving, and serving God?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹשֶׁם רְבָבָה
H7535 and to keep H8104 But take diligent H3966 to do H6213 his commandments H853
מִצּוֹת יְהִי
H853 H4687
וְהַלְאָה אָשָׁר חִזְצָם מִשְׁמָרָת
and the law H834 charged H6680 which Moses H4872 the servant H5650 of the LORD H3068
דְּבָרָךְ יְהִי
you to love H853 of the LORD H3068 your God H430 in all his ways H3605
בְּכָל וְלֹעֲבָדָיו
H8104 his commandments H4687 and to cleave H1692 unto him and to serve H5647
לְבָבְךָ מִבְּכָל גַּפְשָׁךָ
him with all your heart H3605 and with all your soul H5315

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 22:37 (Love): Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Exodus 20:6 (Love): And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Romans 8:28 (Love): And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Exodus 15:26 (Word): 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.

Deuteronomy 11:22 (Love): For if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto him;

Matthew 4:10 (References God): Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Acts 11:23 (References God): Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

Acts 27:23 (References God): For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,

Romans 1:9 (References God): For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;

Romans 12:9 (Love): Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.