

Numbers 1:54

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the children of Israel did according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so did they.

Analysis

The chapter concludes: 'Thus did the children of Israel; according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so did they.' This phrase appears repeatedly in Scripture, commending complete obedience to divine instruction. The Hebrew 'ken asu' (so they did) emphasizes exact compliance without modification. This obedience stands in stark contrast to later rebellions throughout Numbers. The verse teaches that true faith produces obedience (James 2:17) - not perfect sinlessness but habitual submission to God's revealed will. Christ perfectly fulfilled this pattern, always doing the Father's will (John 4:34, 5:30), becoming the obedience that covers our disobedience (Rom 5:19).

Historical Context

This initial obedience occurred early in Israel's wilderness journey when enthusiasm remained high and Moses' leadership was fresh. The careful organization and census execution demonstrated Israel's capability to obey when hearts were willing. Sadly, subsequent chapters record increasing rebellion - the spies' report, Korah's rebellion, complaints about manna - showing that external compliance doesn't guarantee internal transformation. Only the new covenant's heart-change through the Spirit enables consistent obedience (Ezek 36:26-27, Jer 31:33).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Does your obedience to God's Word extend to all areas, or only to convenient commands?
2. How does Christ's perfect obedience credited to you motivate your grateful obedience, not to earn favor but to express love?

Interlinear Text

עָשָׂה	בָּנִים	לִשְׁבָּא	כָּל	רְכָב	הָצִוָּה
did	And the children	of Israel			commanded
H6213	H1121	H3478	H3605	H834	H6680
הָצִוָּה	מִשְׁנֶה	אֶת	הָרָא	כִּי	עָשָׂה
according to all that the LORD	Moses	H853	H3651	did	
H3068	H4872			H6213	

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 12:32 (Parallel theme): What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.