

Numbers 15:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Even all that the LORD hath commanded you by the hand of Moses, from the day that the LORD commanded Moses, and henceforward among your generations;

Analysis

Even all that the LORD hath commanded you by the hand of Moses—this phrase emphasizes the comprehensive scope of law. "All that the LORD hath commanded" includes ceremonial, civil, and moral regulations given "from the day that the LORD commanded Moses, and henceforward among your generations." The mediation of Moses (beyad-Moshe, בְּיַד־מוֹשֶׁה—literally "by the hand of Moses") establishes his unique prophetic authority as lawgiver.

The temporal scope—"from the day that the LORD commanded... and henceforward"—makes these regulations perpetually binding until fulfillment in Christ. Israel couldn't claim ignorance: God had revealed His will comprehensively through Moses. Paul later writes that the law served as paidagogos (παιδαγωγός, "schoolmaster") to lead to Christ (Galatians 3:24). The law's comprehensive demands showed humanity's need for a greater sacrifice than bulls and goats could provide.

Historical Context

Moses received the law at Sinai (Exodus 19-40), supplemented by regulations at various points in the wilderness. This verse in Numbers 15 (approximately 1444 BC) references the entire Mosaic corpus to that point. The formula "by the hand of Moses" occurs frequently in the Pentateuch, emphasizing his unique prophetic role. Deuteronomy 34:10 concludes: "there arose not a prophet since in Israel like

unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face." Jesus's superiority to Moses (Hebrews 3:1-6) was therefore a radical claim.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the law's comprehensive nature demonstrate the impossibility of self-salvation through perfect obedience?
2. What does Moses's unique mediatorial role teach about Christ as superior mediator of a better covenant?
3. How should Christians view the Mosaic law's ongoing authority after Christ's fulfillment?

Interlinear Text

אַלְיכָם	יְהִי הַ	צְדָקָה	אֲשֶׁר	כֹּל	אַתָּה
H413	H3068	H6680	H834	H3605	H853
commanded	Even all that the LORD				
בְּיַד	מִשְׁנָה	מִן	מִמְשָׁה	מִן	צְדָקָה
you by the hand	of Moses	H4480	from the day	H834	commanded
H3027	H4872		H3117		H6680
לְדִרְתֵּיכֶם:	מֹשֶׁה וְלֹא	זֶה			
Even all that the LORD	Moses and henceforward	H1973	among your generations	H1755	
H3068					