

Numbers 15:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him.

Analysis

They 'put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him'—even though Sabbath-breaking was capital crime (Exodus 31:14-15), they waited for specific divine instruction. This careful deference to God's word demonstrates that even in matters where principle seems clear, specific application requires divine wisdom.

Historical Context

This hesitation may reflect uncertainty about whether the general Sabbath law applied with full force during wilderness wandering when normal agricultural and domestic patterns didn't apply. God's specific command in this case removed all ambiguity about His will.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do you seek God's specific guidance even when general principles seem clear?

2. What role does the community of faith play in discerning God's will for difficult cases?

Interlinear Text

וְיִחְזֹקְלֵהוּ	וְיִתְּחַזֵּק	לֵאמֹר	בְּמִשְׁמָרָת	רָאֶתָּו	לְאָכֵל	פְּנֵי	שָׁמָרָה
And they put	H853	him in ward	H3588	H3808	because it was not declared	H4100	
H3240		H4929			H6567		

בְּשָׁעָה	הַ
what should be done	H0

H6213

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 24:12 (Parallel theme): And they put him in ward, that the mind of the LORD might be shewed them.

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