

Numbers 15:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That ye may remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God.

Analysis

God commands: 'That ye may remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God.' The Hebrew 'zakar' (remember) isn't mere mental recall but active remembrance that produces obedience. The purpose is holiness - separation unto God. The preceding verses commanded tassels with blue ribbons on garments (v.38-39) as visible reminders of God's commands. This illustrates that humans need tangible helps for spiritual remembrance. The New Testament provides baptism and the Lord's Supper as remembrance ordinances (Luke 22:19, Rom 6:3-4). Holiness flows from remembering God's redemption and commands, maintaining consecration through constant mindfulness.

Historical Context

The tassel command (tzitzit in Hebrew) continues among observant Jews today. The blue thread's rarity and expense (dyed from murex snail secretion) made it precious, symbolizing royalty and divinity. The tassels' visibility on garments' corners reminded wearers constantly of God's law. Jesus wore these tassels (Matt 9:20, 14:36, 23:5), fulfilling the Law while condemning ostentatious enlargement for display. The practice demonstrates that physical reminders aid spiritual discipline - though New Testament Christians aren't bound to specific Old Testament symbols, we need reminders (Scripture memory, worship, sacraments) to maintain holy living.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What regular practices help you remember God's commands and maintain holy living?
2. How do you balance using helpful spiritual disciplines without becoming legalistic or merely external in your obedience?

Interlinear Text

לִּמְ עַן תִּזְכֹּר ו וַעֲשִׂיתָ ׀ אֶת כָּל מִצְוֹתַי
H4616 That ye may remember and do H853 H3605 all my commandments
H2142 H6213 H4687

וְהָיִיתָ ׀ קֹדֶשׁ יִם לְאֱלֹהֵיכֶם:
and be holy unto your God
H1961 H6918 H430

Additional Cross-References

Romans 12:1 (Holy): I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

1 Thessalonians 4:7 (Holy): For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

Colossians 1:2 (Holy): To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:4 (Holy): According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Leviticus 19:2 (Holy): Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy.

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