

Numbers 5:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the children of Israel did so, and put them out without the camp: as the LORD spake unto Moses, so did the children of Israel.

Analysis

Israel's obedience—"according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so did the children of Israel"—establishes a pattern of corporate covenant faithfulness. The entire nation, not just leaders, obeyed regarding ritual purity. This comprehensive obedience demonstrates that holiness must characterize God's people communally, not just individually. The phrase 'as the LORD commanded' appears repeatedly in Numbers, emphasizing that blessing flows from adherence to revealed will, while judgment follows disobedience.

Historical Context

This verse concludes the section on removing ritually unclean persons from the camp (Numbers 5:1-4). The command protected the camp's purity because God's presence dwelled there. Unlike pagan nations where temples housed distant deities, Israel's God lived among them, requiring communal holiness.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does corporate obedience to God's word affect the health of a church?
2. What happens when a congregation tolerates known sin in its midst?
3. How can we cultivate a community culture of joyful obedience to Scripture?

Interlinear Text

אַל אָוֹת מִיּוֹשְׁלָח וְיִשְׁרָאֵל:
did so H3651 And the children of Israel and put them out H853 H413
H6213 H1121 H3478 H7971

כִּי מֵשֶׁה אָל יְהִי דָבָר לִפְנֵי הַמִּחְןָה וְאָשָׁר
without the camp H4264 H834 H1696 H413 H3651
H2351 H4264 H3068 H4872

יִשְׁרָאֵל:
did so And the children of Israel
H6213 H1121 H3478

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