

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

עָשָׂה וְ	כִּן	בְּנֵי יִ	יִשְׂרָאֵל:	וַיִּשְׁלַח וְ	אֶת־ם	אֵל	
did so	H3651	And the children	of Israel	and put them out	H853	H413	
H6213		H1121	H3478	H7971			
וְ	לַמַּחֲנֶה הַ	בְּאֶשׁ רַ	דָּבָר רַ	יְהוָה	אֵל	מֹשֶׁה הַ	כִּן
without	the camp	H834	spake	as the LORD	H413	unto Moses	H3651
H2351	H4264		H1696	H3068		H4872	
עָשָׂה וְ	בְּנֵי יִ	יִשְׂרָאֵל:					
did so	And the children	of Israel					
H6213	H1121	H3478					

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