

Psalms 99:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He spake unto them in the cloudy pillar: they kept his testimonies, and the ordinance that he gave them.

Analysis

God speaking 'in the cloudy pillar' recalls the wilderness wanderings when God's presence led Israel. The cloud represents both God's presence and His mystery—He reveals Himself while remaining partially veiled. 'They kept his testimonies' (shamru) indicates obedience as the proper response to revelation. The ordinance (choq—decree, statute) God gave represents the Torah. This verse establishes the pattern: God reveals, people obey. The relationship between divine speech and human obedience is foundational to covenant faith.

Historical Context

The pillar of cloud guided Israel through the wilderness (Exodus 13:21-22), serving as visible manifestation of God's guiding presence and authoritative voice.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you discern God's guidance in your life without visible pillars of cloud?

2. What 'testimonies' and 'ordinances' is God calling you to keep in faithful obedience?

Interlinear Text

בַּעַמּוּד	עָנָן	יִדְבַּר	אֵלֶיָּהֶם	שָׁמְרוּ	עֲדוֹתַי
pillar	unto them in the cloudy	He spake	H413	they kept	his testimonies
H5982	H6051	H1696		H8104	H5713
וְהָיָה	נָתַן	לָמוֹ:			
and the ordinance	that he gave	H0			
H2706	H5414				

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 33:9 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses.

Numbers 12:5 (Parallel theme): And the LORD came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth.