

Obedience Pt 1 Israel were called to obey God's voice and be His children

This is a new topic: obedience. In this study we will cover three points: (I) When God brought Israel out of Egypt- He commanded them to obey His voice and do His commandments, (II) Israel sinned, walking not in the ways of the LORD, nor were they obedient unto His commandments, and (iii) The Lord spoke through His prophets unto the Jews in their present day- pointing out that they earnestly protested unto their fathers, saying- obey my voice.

There are 16 occurrences of the word obedient, 12 of obedience, and 114 of the word obey.

According to the scriptures, to be obedient is to-

* DO what we are being told

“And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient” (Ex 24:7)

* turn to the Lord

“When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the Lord thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice” (Deut 4:30)

* to serve Him- Josh 24: 24- “And the people said unto Joshua, The Lord our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey”

* to hearken unto the Lord

“And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the Lord; [but] they did not so” (Jud.2: 17). See also 1 Sam 15:22

* to submit to Him

“Strangers shall submit themselves unto me: as soon as they hear, they shall be obedient unto me” (2 Sam 22: 45). See also Ps.18:44, Heb.13:17, 1Pet 3:1

* to incline our ear- Prov.5: 13- And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!”

To be obedient is to be willing

“If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land” (Is.1: 19).

A little more detail on our three points-

1. When God brought Israel out of Egypt- He commanded them to obey His voice and do His commandments

[1] And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them.

[6] I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. ... (Deut.5: 1, 6).

2. Israel sinned, for they walked not in the ways of the LORD nor obedient unto His commandments.

”Who gave Jacob for a spoil, and Israel to the robbers? did not the Lord, he against whom we have sinned? for they would not walk in his ways, neither were they obedient unto his law” (Is.42: 24).

3. The Lord spoke through His prophets unto the Jews in their present day- pointing out that they earnestly protested unto their fathers, saying- obey my voice.

“Hear ye the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel”- Jer.2:4- CF- Jer 11:7, 8-

[7] For I earnestly protested unto your fathers in the day that I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, even unto this day, rising early and protesting, saying, Obey my voice.

Illustration

The story of Saul, and the lessons we can learn from his initial belief that he obeyed the voice of the Lord. Sometimes, we need to have it explained how we have transgressed the word of the Lord.

* Saul obeyed not the voice of the Lord but took the spoil- 1 Sam.15: 19- “Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the Lord, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the Lord?”

* Saul defended himself and claimed that he had obeyed the voice of the Lord- 1 Sam.15: 20- “And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and have gone the way which the Lord sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.” BUT- The Lord has delight in obeying His voice more than burnt offerings and to hearken than the fat of rams- 1Sam 15:22- “And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams”.

* Once Saul heard Samuel tell him he was rebellious against the Lord he acknowledged his sin and admitted he feared the people and obeyed their voice- 1Sam 15:24- “And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice”.

Questions

i) What does it mean to obey the voice of God? ii) What does it mean to obey His voice today?

Answers from the scriptures

i) To obey the voice of the Lord is to:

* fear Him, serve Him and not rebel against His commandments

[14] If ye will fear the Lord, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the Lord your God:

[15] But if ye will not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then shall the hand of the Lord be against you, as it was against your fathers. (1 Sam.12: 14, 15)

* walk after Him, fear Him and keep His commandments

“Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him” (Deut.13: 4). See also - Deut.27: 10.

* return to Him, and do so with all your heart and soul

[2] And shalt return unto the Lord thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul;

[8] And thou shalt return and obey the voice of the Lord, and do all his commandments which I command thee this day. (Deut.30: 2, 8)

* to cleave unto him, for he is life and length of days

“That thou mayest love the Lord thy God, [and] that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he [is] thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them” (Deut.30: 20).

To obey the voice of the LORD Israel were to obey His servants who spoke His words

“And said unto them, Ye have kept all that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, and have obeyed my voice in all that I commanded you” (Josh.22: 2).

ii) When we compare three verses we will establish that the prophets were moved by the Holy Ghost, their words were written down, and therefore scripture is given by inspiration of God. Hence, the holy scriptures are the voice of God today.

1. The prophets spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost- 2 Pet.1:21- “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost”.

2. The words that the prophets spoke were written down- Jer.36: 17- ”And they asked Baruch, saying, Tell us now, How didst thou write all these words at his mouth?- .

3. All scripture was given by inspiration of God - 2 Tim.3: 16- “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness”.

We obey God’s voice today when we obey His word...the Holy scripture of truth. When we obey not His words- there will be consequences, as there was for Israel. So obey His words and be blessed!