

The Importance of Obedience

Partial or Delayed Obedience is Disobedience - Rick Warren

Leviticus 26

Blessings for Obedience

1 "Do not make idols or set up carved images, sacred pillars, or shaped stones to be worshiped in your land. I, the LORD, am your God. 2 You must keep my Sabbath days of rest and show reverence for my sanctuary. I am the LORD.

3 "If you keep my laws and are careful to obey my commands, 4 I will send the seasonal rains. The land will then yield its crops, and the trees will produce their fruit. 5 Your threshing season will extend until the grape harvest, and your grape harvest will extend until it is time to plant grain again. You will eat your fill and live securely in your land.

6 "I will give you peace in the land, and you will be able to sleep without fear. I will remove the wild animals from your land and protect you from your enemies. 7 In fact, you will chase down all your enemies and slaughter them with your swords. 8 Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand! All your enemies will fall beneath the blows of your weapons.

9 "I will look favorably upon you and multiply your people and fulfill my covenant with you. 10 You will have such a surplus of crops that you will need to get rid of the leftovers from the previous year to make room for each new harvest. 11 I will live among you, and I will not despise you. 12 I will walk among you; I will be your God, and you will be my people. 13 I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you from the land of Egypt so you would no longer be slaves. I have lifted the yoke of slavery from your neck so you can walk free with your heads held high.

Punishments for Disobedience

14 "However, if you do not listen to me or obey my commands, 15 and if you break my covenant by rejecting my laws and treating my regulations with contempt, 16 I will punish you. You will suffer from sudden terrors, with wasting diseases, and with burning fevers, causing your eyes to fail and your life to ebb away. You will plant your crops in vain because your enemies will eat them. 17 I will turn against you, and you will be defeated by all your enemies. They will rule over you, and you will run even when no one is chasing you!

18 "And if, in spite of this, you still disobey me, I will punish you for your sins seven times over. 19 I will break down your arrogant spirit by making the skies above as unyielding as iron and the earth beneath as hard as bronze. 20 All your work will be for nothing, for your land will yield no crops, and your trees will bear no fruit.

21 "If even then you remain hostile toward me and refuse to obey, I will inflict you with seven more disasters for your sins. 22 I will release wild animals that will kill your children and destroy your cattle, so your numbers will dwindle and your roads will be deserted.

23 "And if you fail to learn a lesson from this and continue your hostility toward me,
24 then I myself will be hostile toward you, and I will personally strike you seven times
over for your sins. 25 I will send armies against you to carry out these covenant
threats. If you flee to your cities, I will send a plague to destroy you there, and you will
be conquered by your enemies. 26 I will completely destroy your food supply, so the
bread from one oven will have to be stretched to feed ten families. They will ration your
food by weight, and even if you have food to eat, you will not be satisfied.

27 "If after this you still refuse to listen and still remain hostile toward me, 28 then I
will give full vent to my hostility. I will punish you seven times over for your sins. 29
You will eat the flesh of your own sons and daughters. 30 I will destroy your pagan
shrines and cut down your incense altars. I will leave your corpses piled up beside your
lifeless idols, and I will despise you. 31 I will make your cities desolate and destroy your
places of worship, and I will take no pleasure in your offerings of incense. 32 Yes, I
myself will devastate your land. Your enemies who come to occupy it will be utterly
shocked at the destruction they see. 33 I will scatter you among the nations and attack
you with my own weapons. Your land will become desolate, and your cities will lie in
ruins. 34 Then at last the land will make up for its missed Sabbath years as it lies
desolate during your years of exile in the land of your enemies. Then the land will
finally rest and enjoy its Sabbaths. 35 As the land lies in ruins, it will take the rest you
never allowed it to take every seventh year while you lived in it.

36 "And for those of you who survive, I will demoralize you in the land of your
enemies far away. You will live there in such constant fear that the sound of a leaf
driven by the wind will send you fleeing. You will run as though chased by a warrior
with a sword, and you will fall even when no one is pursuing you. 37 Yes, though no
one is chasing you, you will stumble over each other in flight, as though fleeing in
battle. You will have no power to stand before your enemies. 38 You will die among the
foreign nations and be devoured in the land of your enemies. 39 Those still left alive
will rot away in enemy lands because of their sins and the sins of their ancestors.

40 "But at last my people will confess their sins and the sins of their ancestors for
betraying me and being hostile toward me. 41 Finally, when I have given full
expression to my hostility and have brought them to the land of their enemies, then at
last their disobedient hearts will be humbled, and they will pay for their sins. 42 Then I
will remember my covenant with Jacob, with Isaac, and with Abraham, and I will
remember the land. 43 And the land will enjoy its years of Sabbath rest as it lies
deserted. At last the people will receive the due punishment for their sins, for they
rejected my regulations and despised my laws.

44 "But despite all this, I will not utterly reject or despise them while they are in exile
in the land of their enemies. I will not cancel my covenant with them by wiping them
out. I, the LORD, am their God. 45 I will remember my ancient covenant with their
ancestors, whom I brought out of Egypt while all the nations watched. I, the LORD,
am their God."

46 These are the laws, regulations, and instructions that the LORD gave to the
Israelites through Moses on Mount Sinai. NLT