



THE COST OF OBEDIENCE

Feb. 28, 2010

A BIBLICAL STUDY of Genesis 39:20-41:52



STRONG'S HEBREW/GREEK DEFINITIONS



- 1 SEASON (H3117) "Yome" - many days; figuratively, a period of time; same word used in the days of creation.
- 2 OBEY (H8085) "Shama" - to hear intelligently; discern
- 3 WITCHCRAFT (H7081) Qecem" - a lot; divination—an attempt to obtain secret knowledge, especially of the future, either by inspiration or by reading and interpreting certain signs or omens.
- 4 SACRIFICE (H2077) "Zebach" - a slaughter; an offering (-the need for purification from sin. A reminder of human depravity and of divine provision for the helpless sinner. Without obedience the offerings were valueless.) - Zondervan Bible Dictionary

DOES OBEDIENCE CORRELATE WITH CONVENIENCE?

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TEXT OF THE WEEK

"Hath God delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry."

-1 Sam. 15:22-23

"I Have Done Nothing That They Should Put Me in This Dungeon"

We live in a time of expecting perks and incentives for appropriate choices. How do people respond if they don't get what they think they deserve? Is there a cost to obey?

I. THE COST OF OBEDIENCE

1. What was the cost of obedience thus far in Joseph's young life? Gen. 37:27-28; 39:19-20
 - A) Estimate the time Joseph remained in prison:
 1. Prior to the interpretation of butler/baker dreams - Gen. 39:20-23; 40:4
 2. From the time the butler was restored to the time of Pharaoh's dream: Gen. 41:1
 - B) Where was the Lord during this time of affliction? Gen. 39:3, 21, 23
2. What Biblical evidence demonstrates Joseph was ready to move on? Gen. 40:14-15
3. How did God use these years of affliction to prepare Joseph? Gen. 39:4-5; 22
 - A) What does Joseph's time of affliction represent? Ps. 119:71; Lam. 3:1-2, 18-26, 32-33; 2 Cor. 1:6
 - B) To whom does a child of God still give glory? Gen. 40:8; 41:16; Job 13:15
4. Read Joseph's response to Pharaoh prior to the interpretation (Gen. 41:25). Should we be too concerned about the direction our governmental leaders take us? Prov. 21:1; 16:4
5. How old was Joseph when he became 2nd in command? Gen. 41:46
 - A) When were his children born? Gen. 41:50-52
 - B) Notice the meaning of the names Joseph gave his children. What does this imply?

II. THE COST OF DISOBEDIENCE

6. Compare the event with King Saul and the Amalekites (1 Sam. 15:18-35). Why did he not obey the voice of the Lord? 15:24 Discuss the relevance.
7. "To obey is better than sacrifice." Since the blood sacrifice was filled at the cross, what does sacrifice imply to those who live after the time of the cross? Acts 5:29; Ps. 51:16-17
8. To what does God compare the sin of disobedience? 1 Sam. 15:23
 - A) How serious are these sins? Gal. 5:19-21
 - B) What is the cost of disobedience? 1 Sam. 15:23b
 - C) Notice Saul's response to the strong judgment imputed (15:25-30). Did he get it?

III. THE PLEDGE OF OBEDIENCE

9. DISCUSS: Does obedience or disobedience usually correlate with convenience?
 - Who are we obeying if we don't obey God? Ro. 6:12-16; Prov. 12:15
10. Whom does Scripture tell us to obey?
 - A) Heb. 13:17 B) Titus 2:5; Eph. 5: 22-24 C) Eph. 6:1; Col 3:20 D) Acts 5:29, 32
 - Which of the above listed has been the most difficult for you to obey? Why is it difficult to obey?
 - What is the purpose of obedience? 1 Pet. 3:1; 4:17; Ro. 2:7-11
11. Compare the cost/blessing of obedience vs the gratification/cost of disobedience.