

The Pathway of Obedience

by Wayne Goff

Leviticus 26:1-13 offers two paths: obedience & blessing, or disobedience and misery. We see the same two paths offered by Jesus in **Matthew 7:13-14**.

Characteristics Of The Obedient

There are no idols, v. 1: *"You shall not make idols for yourselves; neither a carved image nor a sacred pillar shall you rear up for yourselves; nor shall you set up an engraved stone in your land, to bow down to it; for I am the LORD your God."* An idol is anything that takes precedence over God. It can be worldliness (**1 Peter 4:3**), covetousness (**Colossians 3:5**), carnal appetite (**Galatians 5:19-20**), or even self.

God's appointments are observed with reverence, v. 2: *"You shall keep My Sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary: I am the LORD."* In the Old Testament, men revered the Seventh Day. In the New Testament, Christians observe the First Day of the Week, **Revelation 1:10**. Too many today use Sunday as "just another day," and are not mindful of the God Who gives them every day of their lives!

Guided by God's Words, v. 3: *"If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them."* It was not enough to **read** God's statutes and commandments. It was not enough to **believe** God's statutes and commandments. One had to "walk" in God's statutes and "keep" His commandments! This is taught in the New Testament as well, **James 1:22-23**.

One must delight to do God's will, v. 3. God's Word is to be "kept," but not as a miser keeps his gold! But rather God's Word is "kept" as a soldier keeps his sword, **Ephesians 6:17**. In keeping God's Word, one is fulfilling its demands, **James 1:25-27**.

Blessings Of Obedience

Fruitfulness, v. 4: *"Then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit."* The small word "then" shows conditionality. Fruitfulness depends upon a right relationship with the Lord. Jesus spoke of Himself as the "Vine" and all His disciples were the "branches," **John 15:1-10, 16**. There is definitely a connection between God and man.

Peace, v. 6: *"I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none will make you afraid; I will rid the land of evil beasts, and the sword will not go through your land."* When the Lord is your Shepherd, there is nothing to fear! The peace of God is the peace of mind that comes from knowing that you have done God's will and that He is pleased with you.

Power to overcome, vv. 7-8: *"You will chase your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you. Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight; your enemies shall fall by the sword before you."* In spiritual warfare, it is not a question of numbers or of experience, but of "holiness unto the Lord." The "Sword" of God's Word is mighty to destroy and abolish all foes!

Special Favor, v. 9: *"For I will look on you favorably and make you fruitful, multiply you and confirm My covenant with you."* The obedient have the eye of God's special grace upon them, **1 Peter 3:12**.

Abundant provision, v. 10. *"You shall eat the old harvest, and clear out the old because of the new."* Old blessings are not hoarded because of the abundance of the new, **Hebrews 8:6, 11-13**. In the Gospel Age, there are abundant blessings as well, **Titus 3:5-7**. Jesus Himself promised in **John 10:10** *"... I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."* An abundant life is promised to those who follow His Word and live the life God has planned for them.

Divine fellowship, v. 12: *"I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people."* There is no greater fellowship than that of God's! Prosperity, progress, protection, purity and power are promised to us.

Dear reader, won't you examine your own life and be sure that you are walking down the "path" of obedience?

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