

Rechabites - cont.

Today, God's commands must be respected; they are not optional (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

The Rechabites obeyed because they were committed to all of the command; all of their life; for all of their family (verse 8).

Today, God's commands are for everyone (Matthew 28:18-20)

The Rechabites were obedient to their father (verse 6,8,18).

Today, God's commands from our heavenly Father, and parental commands, must be obeyed (Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20).

Lastly, the Rechabites obeyed and were rewarded for their obedience (verse 18-19).

Today, obeying God's commands carry great rewards for obedience and great punishments for disobedience (Luke 12:41-48; Galatians 6:7-8).

Disloyal and disobedient Judah did not learn from the example of the loyal and obedient Rechabites. Will we learn from their example? Will we obey today and be rewarded? - *Chris Reeves*

- Word of the Week -

"Liberal" (Gr. ἀπλότης) means generous or bountiful. But, this English word comes from a Greek word that means single or simple (lit. unfolded). When a Christian is single-minded in his or her service to Christ, this Christian will be liberal, generous, and bountiful in giving. God gives liberally to all (James 1:5), and he wants us to be liberal in our giving (Romans 12:8; 2 Corinthians 8:2; 9:11, 13). Let's go out this week and be liberal to all in what we give of our time, our talents, and our substance. Let's be generous and not stingy.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

The Obedience of the Rechabites

*The word which came unto Jeremiah from Jehovah in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, saying, Go unto the house of the Rechabites, and speak unto them, and bring them into the house of Jehovah, into one of the chambers, and give them wine to drink. Then I took Jaazaniah the son of Jeremiah, the son of Habazziniah, and his brethren, and all his sons, and the whole house of the Rechabites; and I brought them into the house of Jehovah, into the chamber of the sons of Hanan the son of Igdaliah, the man of God, which was by the chamber of the princes, which was above the chamber of Maaseiah the son of Shallum, the keeper of the threshold. And I set before the sons of the house of the Rechabites bowls full of wine, and cups; and I said unto them, Drink ye wine. But they said, We will drink no wine; for Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, commanded us, saying, Ye shall drink no wine, neither ye, nor your sons, for ever
- Jeremiah 35:1-6 -*

Background

The events of Jeremiah 35 take place around the time of the Babylonian captivity, c. 605 – 598 B.C. (verses 1, 11; 2 Kings 24:1-2). During this time, Jeremiah was told to give the Rechabites wine to drink and this would be a

lesson to the rebellious house of Judah.

The Rechabites were descendants of the Kenites, who were descendants of Moses' father-in-law (1 Chronicles 2:55; Judges 1:16; 4:11). On this occasion, the Rechabites' loyalty would be tested (verses 2-11). Would they drink the wine or not?

Here, the Rechabites' loyalty is set forth as an example to disloyal Judah (verse 12-17). They obeyed the command of their father not to drink wine and their obedience stood in contrast to rebellious Judah who would not obey God at this time. Disloyal Judah would be punished with the Babylonian captivity, but the loyal Rechabites would be rewarded (verses 18-19).

Lessons in Obedience

What can we learn from the obedience of the Rechabites?

The Rechabites were obedient to an ancient command given about 240 years before (verses 6,14; 2 Kings 10:15,23). This is impressive! A large amount of time transpired, but the Rechabites remembered the command and obeyed it.

Today, God's commands are ancient, going back to the first century and found in

the New Testament, but they are still God's word and must be obeyed (2 Timothy 1:13; 3:16-17).

The Rechabites were obedient in spite of their cultural circumstances. Times were different for the Rechabites now that the Babylonian captivity had started, but they were still faithful to the command.

Today, God's commands in the New Testament that are for all Christians must be obeyed in any culture, in place, and at any time (Daniel 1, 3, 6).

The Rechabites were obedient with temperance (self-control) in the face of temptation (verse 5). They did not violate the command even though Jeremiah was the one who offered them the wine.

Today, God's commands must be obeyed in the face of any trial or temptation (James 1:12ff; 4:7-8).

The Rechabites were obedient because they respected a personal, plain and prohibitive command. They knew what their father commanded and they took it seriously.

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