

LESSON 16 – CAPTIVITY DEVIATION

Kings and Chronicles

THEME: To show that true happiness comes only if we know and obey God.

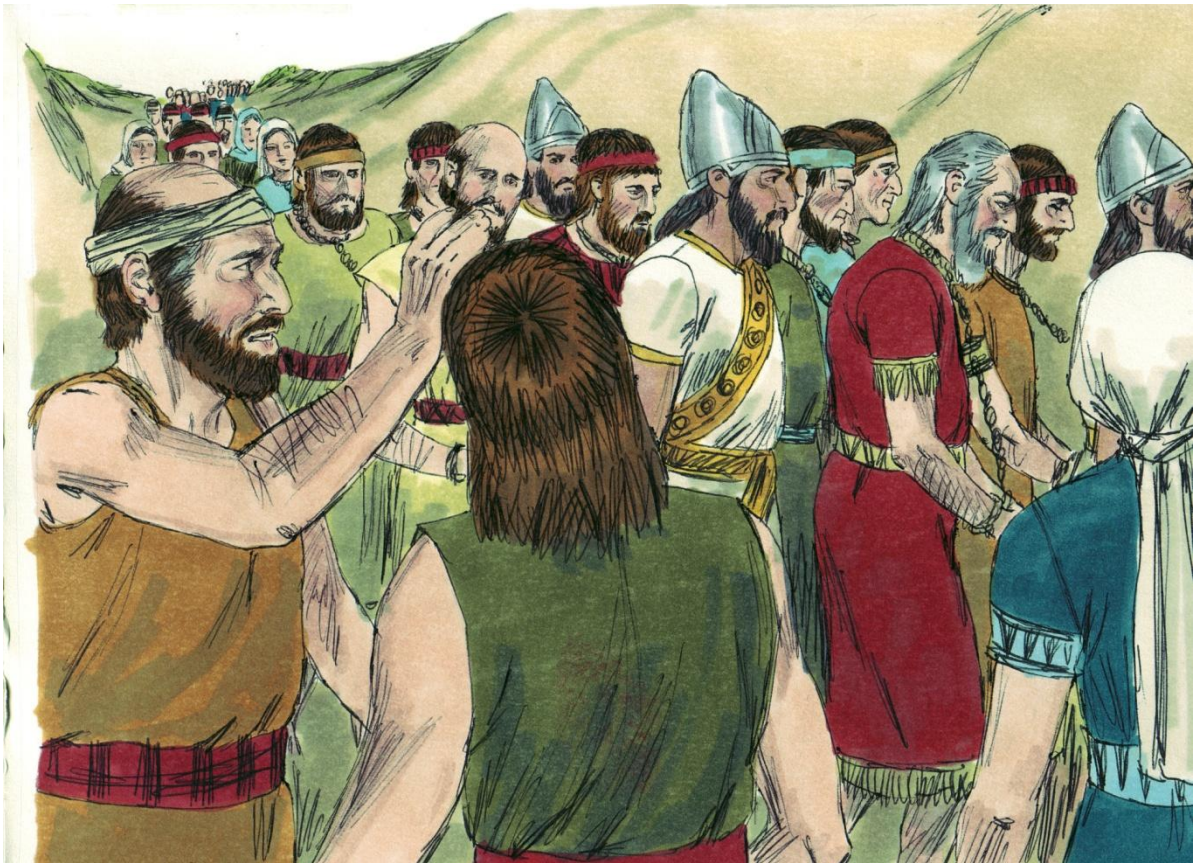
What is the difference between obedience and disobedience? When we are obedient we do what we are instructed to do. When we disobey, we trespass, violate or fail to obey an order or command.

What is the difference between happiness and unhappiness? Happiness is the excitement we feel when we enjoy good things. Unhappiness is just the opposite. Can we be happy when we are disobedient? No, because we have a guilty conscience; then too, disobedience always brings some kind of punishment, not only to the one who commits the wrong, but to others also.

When the Lord established between Himself and the sons of Israel the statutes and ordinances and laws through Moses at Mount Sinai (Leviticus 26:46), He said to them that if they walk in His statutes and keep His commandments so as to carry them out, He shall give them rains in their season (Leviticus 26:3,4). He shall also grant peace in the land and eliminate harmful beasts from the land. They would chase their enemies and these would fall before them by the sword. Leviticus 26:6,7. But if instead, they reject His statutes, and if their soul abhors His ordinances so as not to carry out all His commandments, and so break His covenant, He will do the following to them: He will appoint over them a sudden terror, consumption and fever that will waste away the eyes and cause the soul to pine away. Also, they will sow their seed uselessly, for their enemies will eat it up. He will set His face against them so that they will be struck down before their enemies; and those who hate them will rule over them, and they will flee when no one is pursuing them. Leviticus 26:14-17.

King Solomon knew God's commandments but he began to disobey. He loved many foreign women from the nations concerning which the Lord had said to the sons of Israel, "You shall not associate with them, nor shall they associate with you, for they will surely turn your heart away after their gods." Solomon held fast to these in love. He had 700 wives of royal birth and 300 concubines, and when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been. 1 Kings 11:1-4. The Lord became angry and said to Solomon, "Because you have done this, and you have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you." The Lord raised up adversaries to Solomon and also a man called Jerobeam rebelled against the king. 1 Kings 11:26. Solomon reigned for 40 years in Jerusalem over all Israel and when he died, his son Rehobeam became king. 1 Kings 11:42,43.

After Solomon's death Jerobeam came back from Egypt, where he had fled from the presence of king Solomon. And Jerobeam and all the assembly of Israel spoke to Rehobeam, saying, "Your father made our yoke hard; now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you." 1 Kings 12:2-4. Rehobeam said "Whereas my father loaded you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke." 1 Kings 12:14. Israel rebelled and the kingdom was divided into a northern part, the kingdom of Israel, and a southern part, the kingdom of Judah. 1 Kings 12:16-20.



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Jerobeam became the first king of the northern part, the kingdom of Israel. He sinned greatly and the kings who came after him followed in his steps. At last, as prophet Hosea foretold, God sent the promised judgment: the Assyrian army came, besieged Samaria for 3 years, and finally carried them away as captives to the land of Assyria. "Now this came about because the sons of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God." 2 Kings 17:1-7. You can see why KINGDOM HIGHWAY on our chart is curved now because of sin.

In the kingdom of Judah most of the kings which followed king Rehobeam were also wicked. Only a few did right in the sight of the Lord.

One of them was Hezekiah who clung to the Lord; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the Lord had commanded Moses. 2 Kings 18:6. Amazing is the story when God added fifteen years to Hezekiah's life after he became mortally ill. 2 Kings 20:1-6. But most kings of Judah ignored God's words and His messengers, the prophets. The last king of Judah was Zedekiah. He was foolish and disobedient because he rebelled against the king of Babylon. 2 Kings 24:20. Jeremiah the prophet warned: "This whole land will be a desolation and a horror, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years." Jeremiah 25:11.

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, came with all his army against Jerusalem. King Zedekiah tried to escape but was captured. They slaughtered his sons before his eyes and then put his eyes out. They bound him with bronze shackles and brought him to Babylon. 2 Kings 25:1-7. We call this CAPTIVITY DEVIATION on our chart. Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, burned the house of the Lord, the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem; even every great house he burned with fire. His soldiers broke down the walls around Jerusalem. 2 Kings 25:8-10. The bronze pillars, and the stands and the bronze sea which were in the house of the Lord, the Chaldeans broke in pieces and carried the bronze to Babylon. They also took away the silver and gold of the temple. 2 Kings 25:13-21.

After 70 years, God, according to His promise to the exiles in Babylon (Jeremiah 29:10), allowed them to return to their land. But the kingdom was gone.

Do you understand what terrible consequences disobedience to God brings? Not only Solomon and the other kings were unhappy, but they also brought problems to their whole nation. In Romans 6:16 God tells us that we are the servants of the one whom we obey. If we disobey God's Word, are we serving ourselves or God? God wants us to know Him and to obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 2 Thessalonians 1:8. He wants children to obey their parents. Ephesians 6:1-3. God wants all of us to obey Him unto righteousness. Romans 6:16-17. God will not allow the rejection of His beloved Son to go on forever. This present dispensation of grace will not continue on indefinitely. It has lasted now for more than 1950 years, but He will bring it to a close and speak to this Christ-rejecting world in His wrath. Psalm 2:5; 1 Thessalonians 5:3; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9. Therefore, NOW is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME" ... NOW is "THE DAY OF SALVATION" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

Who is your Master today? Sin or righteousness? Yield to Christ today as He alone can give true happiness.

**MEMORY VERSE: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."
Ephesians 6:1.**

LESSON 16 – WORK SHEET

Read Leviticus 26:1-13 and write down 6 of the blessings which God promised Israel if they walk in His statutes and keep His commandments.

1. Give _____
Grant _____
2. Eliminate _____
No _____
3. Turn _____
Walk _____

Read Leviticus 26:16,17,20,22,25,29,31,33,38 and write down 6 of the terrible chastisements or punishments which would come upon Israel if they disobeyed God and turned to idols.

4. Appoint _____
Set His face _____
5. Their strength _____
Let loose _____
6. Bring _____
Scatter _____

7. But God loved His people and said He would remember the _____
with their ancestors. Leviticus 26:45.

8. God tells us that we are the servants of _____.
Romans 6:16.

9. God wants us to _____.
2 Thessalonians 1:8.

10. Write Ephesians 6:1: _____

_____.