

## Rejection

*The Lord only gave the children of Israel ten Commandments, after leading them out of Egypt in a spectacular fashion. He brought them through the Red Sea and they watched while the Lord destroyed their enemies. The Lord provided food to eat and water for them to drink in the wilderness. One would think that after all these signs, the people would have trusted God, and been totally convinced that He only had good things planned for their future.*

"Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." (Exo 19:5-6)

So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the Lord commanded him. Then all the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do." So Moses brought back the words of the people to the Lord. And the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever." So Moses told the words of the people to the Lord. (Exo 19:7-9)

Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die." And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin." So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was. (Exo 20:18-21)

"These words the Lord spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and He added no more. And He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me." (Deu 5:22)

So it was, when Moses had completed writing the words of this law in a book, when they were finished, that Moses commanded the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord, saying: "Take this Book of the Law, and put it beside the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there as a witness against you; for I know your rebellion and your stiff neck. If today, while I am yet alive with you, you have been rebellious against the Lord, then how much more after my death? Gather to me all the elders of your tribes, and your officers, that I may speak these words in their hearing and call heaven and earth to witness against them. For I know that after my death you will become utterly corrupt, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you. And evil will befall you in the latter days, because you will do evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger through the work of your hands." (Deu 31:24-29)

*Here, the purpose of this Book of the Law is revealed - to serve as a reference and to be a witness against them. Joshua also added to this Book of the Law, which served as a witness against Judah and Israel many years later.*

"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success." (Jos 1:8)

So Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord for yourselves, to serve Him." And they said, "We are witnesses!" "Now therefore," he said, "put away the foreign gods which are among you, and incline your heart to the Lord God of Israel." And the people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and His voice we will obey!" So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made for them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem. Then Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God. And he took a large stone, and set it up there under the oak that was by the sanctuary of the Lord. And Joshua said to all the people, "Behold, this stone shall be a witness to us, for it has heard all the words of the Lord which He spoke to us. It shall therefore be a witness to you, lest you deny your God." So Joshua let the people depart, each to his own inheritance. (Jos 24:22-28)

*Moses knew that Israel would not follow the Law for very long, as he describes their future in Deut 28:1 - 30:10. All the prophets foretold and repeatedly warned them for many years; but still they preferred idol worship and intermarriage, over remaining obedient, worshipping God and keeping His commandments.*

#### Blessings on Obedience

"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God: ..." (Deu 28:1-2)

#### Curses on Disobedience

"But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: ..." (Deu 28:15)

*Moses' Book of the Law, serves as a witness against Israel's behaviour many years later after the kingdom had flourished under King David and King Solomon and then deteriorated again under the rule of the unrighteous kings who followed. These are the blessings and curses described by Moses. They were blessed while they kept the Laws of God. Then they were under curses because they intermingled with other people and served false-gods and idols.*

Now it came to pass, in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, that the king sent Shaphan the scribe, the son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, to the house of the Lord... Then Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the Lord." And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it... Then Shaphan the scribe showed the king, saying, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it before the king. Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, that he tore his clothes. (2Ki 22:3,8,10-11)

Now when they brought out the money that was brought into the house of the Lord, Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the Lord given by Moses. Then Hilkiah answered and said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the Lord." And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan. So Shaphan carried the book to the king, bringing the king word, saying, "All that was committed to your servants they are doing. And they have gathered the money that was found in the house of the Lord, and have delivered it into the hand of the overseers and the workmen."

Then Shaphan the scribe told the king, saying, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it before the king. Thus it happened, when the king heard the words of the Law, that he tore his clothes. Then the king commanded Hilkiah, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Abdon the son of Micah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king, saying, "Go, inquire of the Lord for me, and for those who are left in Israel and Judah, concerning the words of the book that is found; for great is the wrath of the Lord that is poured out on us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the Lord, to do according to all that is written in this book."

So Hilkiah and those the king had appointed went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tokhath, the son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe. (She dwelt in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter.) And they spoke to her to that effect. Then she answered them, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel, 'Tell the man who sent you to Me, thus says the Lord: "Behold, I will bring calamity on this place and on its inhabitants, all the curses that are written in the book which they have read before the king of Judah, because they have forsaken Me and burned incense to other gods, that they might provoke Me to anger with all the works of their hands. Therefore My wrath will be poured out on this place, and not be quenched." ' " (2Ch 34:14-25)

*Now it was time for Israel to return to the beginning again. They were conquered by King Nebuchadnezzar and served him for 70 years, just as prophesied by Moses and Jeremiah. They were taken back to the land where Abraham began.*

The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah (which was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon), which Jeremiah the prophet spoke to all the people of Judah and to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying: "From the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, even to this day, this is the twenty-third year in which the word of the Lord has come to me; and I have spoken to you, rising early and speaking, but you have not listened. And the Lord has sent to you all His servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, but you have not listened nor inclined your ear to hear. They said, 'Repent now everyone of his evil way and his evil doings, and  dwell in the land that the Lord has given to you and your fathers forever and ever. Do not go after other gods to serve them and worship them, and do not provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands; and I will not harm you.' Yet you have not listened to Me," says the Lord, "that you might provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands to your own hurt. Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Because you have not heard My words, behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,' says the Lord, 'and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, will bring them against this land, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolations. Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp. And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. Then it will come to pass, when the seventy years are completed, that I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity,' says the Lord; 'and I will make it a perpetual desolation. So I will bring on that land all My words which I have pronounced against it, all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah has prophesied concerning all the nations. For many nations and great kings shall be served by them also; and I will repay them according to their deeds and according to the works of their own hands.' " (Jer 25:1-14)

"Now you shall say to this people, 'Thus says the Lord: "Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death. He who remains in this city shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence; but he who goes out and defects to the Chaldeans who besiege you, he shall live, and his life shall be as a prize to him. For I have set My face against this city for adversity and not for good," says the Lord. "It shall be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire." ' ' ' (Jer 21:8-10)

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept when we remembered Zion. We hung our harps upon the willows in the midst of it. For there those who carried us away captive asked of us a song, and those who plundered us requested mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land? If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill! If I do not remember you, let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth – if I do not exalt Jerusalem above my chief joy. (Psa 137:1-6)

"Now it shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the Lord your God drives you, and you return to the Lord your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul, that the Lord your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the Lord your God has scattered you. If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you. Then the Lord your God will bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers. And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. Also the Lord your God will put all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you. And you will again obey the voice of the Lord and do all His commandments which I command you today. The Lord your God will make you abound in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your land for good. For the Lord will again rejoice over you for good as He rejoiced over your fathers, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this Book of the Law, and if you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul." (Deu 30:1-10)

"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them." (Deu 30:19-20)

*Israel had two chances, two extended periods; to prove themselves righteous under the Law, to follow God's ten Commandments and the laws of Moses. Just as King Saul was only given two chances before he was rejected by God. Saul performed an unlawful sacrifice, and refused to follow the Lord's instructions. Then God sent Samuel to anoint David, to be king in Saul's place. I think this was a shadow of exactly what was going happen to the nation of Israel.*

Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations." But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." So Samuel prayed to the Lord.

And the Lord said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day – with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods – so they are doing to you also. Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them." So Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who asked him for a king. (1Sa 8:4-10)

*Moses had instructed them on appointing a king, see Deu 17:14-20 and 1Sa 8:11-22. Solomon broke most of these laws for a king! Samuel warns the people against appointing a king, but they insist, saying, "No, but we will have a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles."*

*This was another act of rebellion against God. Note what Samuel says :-*

Then Samuel called the people together to the Lord at Mizpah, and said to the children of Israel, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all kingdoms and from those who oppressed you.' But you have today rejected your God, who Himself saved you from all your adversities and your tribulations; and you have said to Him, 'No, set a king over us!' Now therefore, present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes and by your clans." (1Sa 10:17-19)

*After Samuel had anointed Saul with oil, he told him that he will meet three men.*

"Then you shall go on forward from there and come to the terebinth tree of Tabor. There three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you, carrying three young goats, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine. And they will greet you and give you two loaves of bread, which you shall receive from their hands." (1Sa 10:3-4)

*I see those two loaves of bread, representing Sauls' two chances (and Israel's), for being a righteous king (righteous nation). Saul did not wait long before he rebelled by making an unlawful sacrifice. Then he rebelled again and did not follow the Lord's instructions, but spared King Agag and took the best of the livestock and spoil for themselves. The Lord told Samuel to forget all about rebellious Saul, and to go and anoint David as king to replace him.*

#### Israel's 1<sup>st</sup> Chance

Land - Egypt  
Ruler - Pharaoh  
Israel's Prophet - Joseph  
210 years captive (3 days)

Pharaoh - King of Egypt  
Gifts – Gold, silver and livestock  
Leader - Moses  
High Priest - Aaron  
Scribe of God's Law - Moses  
Nation builder - Joshua son of Nun

Solomon built the 1<sup>st</sup> Temple

#### Israel's 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance

Land - Babylon  
Ruler - Nebuchadnezzar  
Israel's Prophet - Daniel  
70 years captive (1 day)

Cyrus - King of Persia  
Gifts – Gold, silver and livestock  
Leader - Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel  
High Priest - Joshua, son of Jehozadak  
Scribe of God's Law - Ezra  
Nation builder - Nehemiah

Zerubbabel built 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple (500y later)

In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans – in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the Lord through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. (Dan 9:1-2)

*All the 1<sup>st</sup> Temple's 5400 gold and silver articles, were taken to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar. They were restored to Sheshbazzar (Zerubbabel) the prince of Judah, through Cyrus King of Persia by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer.*

"Who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd, and he shall perform all My pleasure, saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," and to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid." ' ' " (Isa 44:28)

*The foundation of the Temple, was laid in the second year of King Cyrus! This fulfils the prophecy of Isaiah, see Ezra 3:8-13.*

*We know from Josephus, that the first year of Cyrus was the 70<sup>th</sup> year of captivity for Israel. After the reconstruction of the Temple and Jerusalem, which took 49y (7x7); Israel was given their second chance at righteousness, a period of 490y (70x7) to prove themselves under the Law, before Jesus Christ was born.*

"And you shall count seven sabbaths of years for yourself, seven times seven years; and the time of the seven sabbaths of years shall be to you forty-nine years. Then you shall cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement you shall make the trumpet to sound throughout all your land. And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a Jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his possession, and each of you shall return to his family." (Lev 25:8-10)

Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven." (Mat 18:21-22)

*Jesus Christ our sacrificial lamb, was crucified in the 4000<sup>th</sup> year of Creation, which is as the fourth day. Are these scriptural cross-references just my imagination running wild, or are they truly shadows and Cross References?*

"Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the 10<sup>th</sup> of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You make take it from the sheep or from the goats. Now you shall keep it until the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight.' " (Exo 12:3-6)

On the first day of the 1<sup>st</sup> month he [! Ezra] began his journey from Babylon, and on the first day of the 5<sup>th</sup> month he came to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him. For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel. (Ezra 7:9-10)