

Jeremiah 35:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But we have dwelt in tents, and have obeyed, and done according to all that Jonadab our father commanded us.

Analysis

But we have dwelt in tents בָּאָהָלִים (בָּשְׁבָנוּ) —The verb **שָׁבַב** (yashav, to dwell/sit) paradoxically describes stable habitation in unstable structures. **And have obeyed, and done according to all** וְנִשְׁמַע וְנִעַשׂ (vanishma' vana'as) —This dual formula ('we obeyed and we did') echoes Israel's covenant response at Sinai: na'aseh v'nishma ("we will do and we will hear," Exodus 24:7), which Israel broke but the Rechabites kept.

The comprehensive obedience—**according to ALL that Jonadab our father commanded**—tolerates no selective compliance, no interpretive loopholes, no situational ethics. This wholehearted submission to ancestral authority becomes the standard by which God judges Judah's half-hearted covenant compliance. If Rechabites obey a dead ancestor completely, how inexcusable is Judah's disobedience to the living God who speaks continually through prophets?

Historical Context

Jeremiah uses the Rechabites as a living object lesson during the reign of Jehoiakim (609-598 BC), when covenant unfaithfulness reached its apex. The same generation that burned Jeremiah's scroll (chapter 36) witnessed the Rechabites' unyielding fidelity—a damning contrast that intensified Judah's guilt.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Do you obey God selectively (choosing comfortable commands while ignoring costly ones), or comprehensively like the Rechabites who kept 'all' of Jonadab's commands?
2. What does your level of obedience to Scripture reveal about whether you truly believe God is alive and speaking, or merely a historical religious figure?
3. How does the Rechabites' tent-dwelling embody the New Testament call to 'seek those things which are above' (Colossians 3:1-2) rather than earthly security?

Interlinear Text

אֲשֶׁר	כִּי	לִ	וְ	עָשָׂ	תְּפִשְׂתִּים	עַ	בְּאָבִל	יְמִ	תֵּבֶשׂ	שָׁבָת
But we have dwelt in	tents			and have obeyed		and done			H3605	H834
H3427	H168			H8085		H6213				
אָבִינוּ:	וְיִתְּצַדֵּךְ	בְּ	וְיִתְּצַדֵּךְ	אָבִינוּ:						
commanded	according to all that	Jonadab		our father						
H6680	H3122			H1						

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org