

# 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

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**But we have dwelt in tents** (יָשָׁבוּ בְּאֹהֲלִים ba'ohalim yashavnu)—The verb יָשָׁב (yashav, to dwell/sit) paradoxically describes stable habitation in unstable structures. **And have obeyed, and done according to all** (וַנִּשְׁמָע וַנַּעֲשֶׂה 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

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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

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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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

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וַיֵּשְׁבוּ	בְּאֶהֱלֵי יִם	וַנִּשְׁמָע ע	וַנַּעַשׂ	כָּכָל ל	אֲשֶׁר
But we have dwelt in	tents	and have obeyed	and done	H3605	H834
H3427	H168	H8085	H6213		
צִוָּנוּ	יִנְדָּב ב	אֲבִינוֹ:			
commanded	according to all that Jonadab	our father			
H6680	H3122	H1			