

Jeremiah 35:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The words of Jonadab the son of Rechab, that he commanded his sons not to drink wine, are performed; for unto this day they drink none, but obey their father's commandment: notwithstanding I have spoken unto you, rising early and speaking; but ye hearkened not unto me.

Analysis

God contrasts Jonadab's words (obeyed for 200+ years) with His own words (continually rejected). The phrase 'rising up early and speaking' emphasizes God's persistent efforts to reach His people. Yet 'ye have not inclined your ear unto me.' Human authority sometimes commands better obedience than divine authority - an indictment of hard hearts. This persistence makes judgment just.

Historical Context

The Rechabites' obedience to human authority shames Judah's disobedience to divine authority. Lesser obligations were kept; greater ones were broken.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Why do people sometimes obey human authority better than God's?
2. How does God's persistent speaking to you increase your accountability?

Interlinear Text

הוֹקֵם	אֶת	דְּבַר י	יְהוֹנָדָב	בְּנֵי יו	רֵכָב	אֲשֶׁר
are performed	H853	The words	of Jonadab	his sons	of Rechab	H834
H6965		H1697	H3082	H1121	H7394	
צִוָּה	אֶת	בְּנֵי יו	לִבְלֹתִי	שְׁתוּ	יַיִן	וְלֹא
that he commanded	H853	his sons	H1115	not to drink	wine	H3808
H6680		H1121		H8354	H3196	
שְׁתוּ	עַד	הַיּוֹם	הַזֶּה	כִּי	שָׁמַעְתֶּם	אֵת
not to drink	H5704	for unto this day	H2088	H3588	but ye hearkened	H853
H8354		H3117			H8085	
מִצְוַת	אֲבִיהֶם	וְאֵל נֹכַח	וְדַבֵּר	אֲלֵיכֶם		
commandment	their father's	H595	and speaking	H413		
H4687	H1		H1696			
הַשָּׂכֶם	וְדַבֵּר	וְלֹא	שָׁמַעְתֶּם	אֵלַי:		
unto you rising early	and speaking	H3808	but ye hearkened	H413		
H7925	H1696		H8085			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 30:9 (Word): That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD:

Isaiah 50:2 (Parallel theme): Wherefore, when I came, was there no man? when I called, was there none to answer? Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver? behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stinketh, because there is no water, and dieth for thirst.

Jeremiah 7:13 (Kingdom): And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the LORD, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not;

Jeremiah 11:7 (Sin): For I earnestly protested unto your fathers in the day that I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, even unto this day, rising early and protesting, saying, Obey my voice.

Jeremiah 26:5 (Word): To hearken to the words of my servants the prophets, whom I sent unto you, both rising up early, and sending them, but ye have not hearkened;

Jeremiah 29:19 (Word): Because they have not hearkened to my words, saith the LORD, which I sent unto them by my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them; but ye would not hear, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 32:33 (Sin): And they have turned unto me the back, and not the face: though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not hearkened to receive instruction.

Nehemiah 9:26 (Word): Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against thee, and cast thy law behind their backs, and slew thy prophets which testified against them to turn them to thee, and they wrought great provocations.

Nehemiah 9:30 (Parallel theme): Yet many years didst thou forbear them, and testifiedst against them by thy spirit in thy prophets: yet would they not give ear: therefore gavest thou them into the hand of the people of the lands.