

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

אֲשֶׁר	רְכָב	בָּנָיו	יְהוֹנָדָב	בָּנָיו	דָּבָר	אֶת	הַזָּקָן
are performed	H853	The words	of Jonadab	his sons	of Rechab		H834
	H6965	H1697	H3082	H1121	H7394		
אֲלֹא	בְּנֵי	שְׁתַו	לְבָלָת	בָּנָיו	אֶת	צָוָה	הַזָּקָן
that he commanded	H853	his sons	H1115	not to drink	wine		H3808
	H6680	H1121	H8354	H3196			
אֲלֹא	שְׁמֻעָתָם	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	שְׁתַו	אֶת
not to drink	H5704	for unto this day	H2088	H3588	but ye hearkened		H853
	H8354	H3117		H8085			
אֲלֵיכֶם	יְדַבֵּר	וְאֶנְכִּי	אָבִיכֶם	מִצְרָיִם	אֲלֹא	תְּשִׁמְעָתָם	אֲלֹא
commandment	their father's	H595	and speaking	H4687	H1		H413
		H1696					
אֲלֵינוּ	בְּנֵי	שְׁמֻעָתָם	אֲלֹא	יְדַבֵּר	וְאֶנְכִּי	תְּשִׁמְעָתָם	אֲלֵינוּ
unto you rising early	and speaking	H3808		H7925	H1696	but ye hearkened	H413
						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.