

## Why We Must Obey His Voice

Yirmeyah Tan, 7 November 2025

Shalom.

Today, we are discussing the topic of “**Why We Must Obey His Voice**”. Whose voice? The Bible says the voice of God, the voice of the Lord. We know that His name is Yahweh so we can say we must obey the voice of Yahweh. What is the voice of Yahweh? Does it speak directly to each one of us? How does He speak and how does His voice relate to the Ten Commandments that we are commanded to obey. The entire Torah includes the Ten Commandments, the statutes, ordinances, the judgments, the testimonies and then there is the Covenant which embraces the Torah and more. Do we obey His voice? Only when we hear from Him directly? What does the bible teach us? If there is a voice, there is somebody speaking. You can say God is speaking or the Lord is speaking, or Yahweh is speaking but the Bible does differentiate for us in terms of the Trinity. There is the Father, the Son Yeshua and the Holy Spirit. Is it possible for us to discern which person of the Trinity is speaking?

Let me begin with **Exo 19:5-6** –

**Exo 19:5** *Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:*  
**Exo 19:6** *And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel*

Yahweh placed obedience over sacrifice. Sacrifice also means sacrifice of our time and effort to serve Him, minister to Him and minister to the people. All too often pastors and preachers put Ministry above obedience to Yahweh and that is totally wrong. This is confirmed in the case of King Saul and his transgressions against Yahweh later.

### I. The Exodus Priority of Obedience

**Jer 7:22** *For I spake not unto your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices:*

**Jer 7:23** *But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.*

**Jer 7:24** *But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.*

The Israelites were disobedient.

What about the Commandments that were given on Mount Sinai? Let's look at **Deu 4:12-14** –

### I. Voice on Mt Sinai

**Deu 4:12** *And the LORD spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words but saw no similitude; only ye heard a voice.*

**Deu 4:13** *And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone.*

**Deu 4:14** *And the LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go over to possess it.*

We know that what we call the Torah [the Law] which includes the Ten Commandments, the statutes and judgments which were given by Yahweh speaking from Mount Sinai. It is noteworthy that v.13 says the 10 commandments. The Ten Commandments are most important part of the Torah for us if we want to start obeying Yahweh.

The next point is the promise to the children of Israel. This promise comes to us as well because Gentiles are now incorporated into the church, into the body of Christ and He expects the same of us. Peter the Apostle wrote that we too have become a peculiar people. We look at what the Bible has to say about us including the Israelites and all the Gentiles who come to Christ are to be peculiar people. We read at the outset **Exo 19:5-6** –

## II. Peculiar People

**Exo 19:5** Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a **peculiar treasure unto me above all people**: for all the earth is mine:

**Exo 19:6** And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

You notice the words ‘peculiar treasure unto me above all people’ and the words ‘a kingdom of priests and a holy nation’. There are 3 important things that we need to note: if we obey His voice, keep His covenant, He will regard us as His peculiar treasure. In the Book of Malachi, this is translated as jewels, the jewels of Yahweh and in addition we shall be a kingdom of priests. Elsewhere in the Bible it says Kings and Priests or kingdom of priests and a holy nation. What is often neglected in the churches is holiness. The book of Hebrews says that, without peace with all men and holiness, no one shall see Yahweh.

Look at the blessings of obedience in **Deu 28:1-2** -

## III. Blessings of Obedience

**Deu 28:1** And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

**Deu 28:2** And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

Then the curses of disobedience in **Exo 15:26** and **Deu 28:15** –

## IV. Curses of Disobedience

**Exo 15:26** And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these **diseases** upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for **I am the LORD that healeth thee**.

This ties in with the blessings of obedience but the negative part is that, if we disobey, He will put the diseases like He put on the Egyptians on us and this is confirmed in **Deu 28:15** -

**Deu 28:15** But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

Then look at **Deu 28:45-46** –

**Deu 28:45** *Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee:*

**Deu 28:46** *And they shall be upon thee for a sign and for a wonder, and upon thy seed forever.*

It is terrible to read the list of curses when people disobey. In the churches you find that most people and their pastors blame the devil when bad things come upon them, when sicknesses come upon them and their first reaction is to rebuke the devil and cast out demons. Yes, there's a role for casting out demons, but the most important thing is to teach people to repent and confess their sins before almighty God so that He will lift the curses.

#### **V. Denied Entry Into Promised Land**

**Jos 5:6** *For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people that were men of war, which came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they obeyed not the voice of the LORD: unto whom the LORD sware that he would not shew them the land, which the LORD sware unto their fathers that he would give us, a land that floweth with milk and honey.*

Those above the age of 20 could not enter the Promised Land because they obeyed not the voice of Yahweh. The Bible also tells us shame and confusion will come upon those who disobey the voice of Yahweh. We find this in **Jer 3:25** –

#### **VI. Shame & Confusion**

**Jer 3:25** *We lie down in our shame, and our confusion covereth us: for we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even unto this day, and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God*

There are lots of people who go beyond shame and become shameless. They are so deep in their sins, their transgressions and their disobedience. We see confusion all over the world now. Babylon is all about confusion and the system of Babylon has taken over the entire world beginning with America, which many have identified as mystery Babylon. Look at the division and the confusion in America today right now. Mental illness is afflicting a lot of people, especially youth. Those who are mentally ill have lost their bearings and very often behave like people who are in dementia: thoroughly confused and, more than that, can be very violent.

The next injunction that we must look at is “harden not your hearts”. Look at **Heb 3:15** –

#### **VII. Harden Not Your Hearts**

**Heb 3:15** *While it is said, today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.*

There are 2 ways to interpret this very important verse: First, if you want to hear His voice you must not have the habit of hardening your hearts. Second and equally valid interpretation is that, when you hear His voice, don't disobey and harden your hearts which is exactly what the Israelites did, over and over again in the wilderness.

The next important point that pertains to Israel as a nation is also applicable to all the Gentile nations in the world. Let's look at application to Israel: **Deu 8:19-20, 2Ki 18:11-12** and **Psa 106:24-27** -

### **VIII. Perish As A Nation**

**Deu 8:19** *And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish.*

**Deu 8:20** *As the nations which the LORD destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the LORD your God.*

**2Ki 18:11** *And the king of Assyria did carry away Israel unto Assyria, and put them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes:*

**2Ki 18:12** *Because they obeyed not the voice of the LORD their God, but transgressed his covenant, and all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded, and would not hear them, nor do them.*

**Psa 106:24** *Yea, they despised the pleasant land, they believed not his word:*

**Psa 106:25** *But murmured in their tents, and hearkened not unto the voice of the LORD.*

**Psa 106:26** *Therefore he lifted up his hand against them, to overthrow them in the wilderness:*

**Psa 106:27** *To overthrow their seed also among the nations, and to scatter them in the lands.*

This has happened several times in the history of Israel. Only now do we see the regathering since 1948. Again, watch what this prophetic word says is that, when the Israelites disobey the voice of Yahweh, He will throw them out of the land. When the Antichrist takes control soon, he will cause them to flee. The same penalty is applicable to all nations in the world. Look at the rise and fall of Kingdoms over the millennia. Look at the millions of refugees from the Middle East, Ukraine, etc. Watch what is going to happen to America very shortly: the whole world will be shocked when it is destroyed.

Next is the application to rulers, those in charge of nations beginning with King Saul is a prime example. They will perish as he perished as a king. Look at **1Sa 12:14-15** and **1Sa 15:22-23** –

### **IX. Perish As A King**

**1Sa 12:14** *If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the LORD your God:*

**1Sa 12:15** *But if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be against you, as it was against your fathers.*

**1Sa 15:22** *And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.*

*1Sa 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and dolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.*

Those who are proud like King Saul are also very stubborn. Rebellion against Yahweh is like witchcraft and stubbornness is like iniquity and idolatry. Such people will not rule and reign with Christ in the Millennium. Look at what is stated in v.22: to obey is better than sacrifice. Obedience is of uppermost importance in the eyes of Yahweh. First obey, then make your sacrifices. First obey, then do your ministry.

Look at Abraham's example: because of his faith in the promises of Yahweh he was accounted as righteous. But faith is not merely believing; true faith comes with obedience. Look at **Gen 26:2-5** –

#### **X. Abraham's Example**

*Gen 26:2 And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of:*

*Gen 26:3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father;*

*Gen 26:4 And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;*

*Gen 26:5 Because that **Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.***

Just like us, Abraham was not accounted righteous because he tried to obey. He was accounted righteous because he believed in the promises of Yahweh, but he followed up that faith by walking the ways of Yahweh. Look at our position in Eph 2:8 says, "For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, less any man should boast." We do not come to Salvation because of our good works, our trying to obey Yahweh's laws. But, having come to Christ through faith in what He did for us on the cross and in His resurrection, we become a new creation in Christ. With a new heart and spirit, we walk in obedience to Him. The sequence is: we are not saved by trying to obey, **we are saved to obey.**

How do we hear the voice of God? The primary means is through the prophets. Look at **Jer 26:12-13** -

#### **XI. My Servants The Prophets**

*Jer 26:12 Then spake Jeremiah unto all the princes and to all the people, saying, The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city all the words that ye have heard.*

*Jer 26:13 Therefore now amend your ways and your doings and obey the voice of the LORD your God; and the LORD will repent him of the evil that he hath pronounced against you.*

Where is the voice of Yahweh? Through the mouth of Jeremiah the prophet: he said: Yahweh gave me these words, He sent me to prophesy these things to you. He is a vessel of the Lord: he represented the voice of Yahweh. Again **Jer 44:4-5** –

*Jer 44:4 Howbeit I sent unto you all my servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, saying, Oh, do not this abominable thing that I hate.*

*Jer 44:5 But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear to turn from their wickedness, to burn no incense unto other gods.*

Yahweh sent His servants the prophets to tell and warn the people, so the prophets became the voice of Yahweh. First the prophets heard from Yahweh and then they conveyed the word of Yahweh. Again **Dan 9:8-10** –

***Dan 9:8** O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee.*

***Dan 9:9** To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him;*

***Dan 9:10** Neither have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets.*

Next, we look at who is speaking in the Old Testament. I am talking about the voice of Yahweh who speaks in and this is a part or apart from His servants the prophets. Let's look at the voice of the Lord Yahweh in the Old Testament and refer to **Heb 1:1-2** –

## **XII. Voice of The Lord [YAHWEH] in Old Testament**

***Heb 1:1** God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,*

***Heb 1:2** Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;*

- a. **It was not the Son [Yeshua] who spoke through the prophets. Yeshua appeared as the Angel of the Lord in human form to speak to people like Abraham.**
- b. **It was not the Father:**

We deduce from these 2 verses: first it was not the Son Yeshua who spoke to the prophets. We know Yeshua appeared as the angel of the Lord in human form to speak to people like Abraham. As the angel of the Lord, it was not the Father either who spoke in the Old Testament because Yeshua told us this in **John 5:37** -

***Joh 5:37** And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.*

The angel of the Lord who appeared to His servants in the Old Testament was not the Father. The voice of the Lord that spoke on the mountain was not the Father. The one who appeared at the burning bush was not the Father but the Son. Look at **2Pe 1:20-21** –

### **c. It was the Holy Spirit**

***2Pe 1:20** Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.  
**2Pe 1:21** For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*

Very explicit: He spoke to the prophets, He spoke from the Mount Sinai the Commandments that we are to obey now. Look at the voice of the Lord in New Testament: we know that Yeshua certainly spoke in all the four gospels, in the book of Acts especially the beginning chapter and different parts of Revelation. What about the Father? Very interestingly, the

Father is recorded speaking in two places in the New Testament but never in the Old Testament. Look at **Mat 3:16-17** –

### **XIII. Voice of the Lord in New Testament**

- a. **Yeshua in the Gospels, Acts and Revelation.**
- b. **The Father:**

**Mat 3:16** *And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:*

**Mat 3:17** **And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**

If Yeshua is the Son, then the Voice must be that of the Father, it cannot be the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was like a dove descending upon Him. Wonderful picture of the Trinity. Look at another verse in **Mat 17:5** –

**Mat 17:5** *While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, **this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.***

This is on the mountain of transfiguration when Yeshua appeared in glory with Moses and Elijah. The voice from Heaven said “this is my beloved Son” so it must be the father. Then look at **2Pe 1:16-18** -

**2Pe 1:16** *For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.*

**2Pe 1:17** *For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, **this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.***

**2Pe 1:18** **And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.**

Next, let's look **Joh 15:26-27** –

- c. **The Holy Spirit**

**Joh 15:26** *But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:*

**Joh 15:27** *And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.*

Can you see that the Holy Spirit will testify? You cannot testify unless you speak. Then **Joh 16:13** –

**Joh 16:13** *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; **but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.***

The Holy Spirit will speak to us. We shall learn more in future videos how to discern the voice of the Holy Spirit, how to know when He is speaking to us and what to expect. Look at a few examples in **Act 8:29** –

**Act 8:29** Then the **Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.**

Philip heard the voice of the Holy Spirit commanding him to go near to the Ethiopian eunuch. He went to witness to him and baptize him. Then look at **Act 10:19** –

**Act 10:19** While Peter thought on the vision, **the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee.**

Peter had the vision of unclean animals and so on. You see what scripture has to say about the roles of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in speaking to us through His prophets and the words He spoke in the Torah. When we read the Torah, the Commandments of God: that is the voice of Yahweh from Mount Sinai. You see how wonderful scripture is. It is His voice that gave us all the Commandments, His voice that directs our ways, His voice that would teach His way. Can you say Amen?