Ring of Truth daily devotion

Ring of Truth provides 366 daily 'proofs' that the Bible is consistent throughout from Genesis to Revelation and relevant for our lives today!

9 July

Jeremiah 35:19

"Therefore, this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: 'Jonadab son of Recab will never fail to have a man to serve me.'"

God always honours obedience. It's a 'Ring of Truth'!

An interesting story this one. The Levites, the priests, were given no inheritance in the Promised Land. They belonged to God and were neither to build houses or cities, nor plant vineyards. Just as Abraham had obediently lived in a tent throughout his life to show to everyone (including himself) that he did not 'belong' to earth but had an eternal, heavenly home and destiny (see Hebrews 11:9), so the Recabites had decided to follow the example. Furthermore, they would not drink wine.

God told Jeremiah to 'test out' their resolve. So Jeremiah invited them around for some hospitality and the whole clan turned up. He then offered them wine, which he poured out in front of them. However, although undoubtedly impressed and even flattered to have been invited by Jeremiah, they explained that they couldn't drink wine, however kindly it was offered and no matter by whom - prophet of God or not.

Jonadab had given them this command:

"Neither you nor your descendants must ever drink wine. Also you must never build houses, sow seed or plant vineyards; you must never have any of these things, but must always live in tents. Then you will live a long time in the land where you are nomads" (v 6-7).

"We have obeyed everything our forefather Jonadab son of Recab commanded us" (v 8).

Even when they had gone up to Jerusalem to avoid the invading armies, their lifestyle hadn't changed.

God then told Jeremiah to use their testimony as an example to the people. If the descendants of Recab had held fast to a command of their forefather, who was long dead - how come they would not follow the commands of the Almighty God, who is alive for ever? Good question, isn't it?

How is it we will pay our taxes but ignore our tithes and offerings?

How is it we obey the law of the land but ignore the life-giving Word of God?

How come we will follow our parents' example but won't follow Jesus?

Yet, all through Scripture, we see that God always honours obedience. The obedient always win.

Noah was saved from the flood by being obedient and building the Ark. Moses delivered the Hebrews from Egypt by doing all that God showed him.

Even Jesus has been exalted to the Highest Place because He became obedient to death (see Philippians 2:8-11).

And you? What obedience in your life will God be able to honour?