

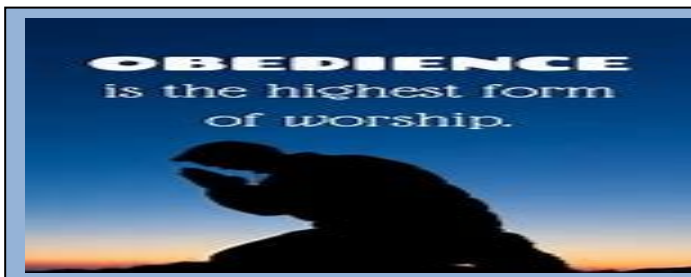


***“And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God by walking in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,”***  
*Deut.10:12 (BSB)*

***“And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God by walking in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments.”<sup>1</sup>*** We continue for another week on the Principle of Obedience. The text before us is the challenge God gave to the children of Israel through Moses, after He had brought them out of Egypt, and had led them for forty (40) years through the wilderness. It is saying in essence, in light of all that I have done for you, what should be the appropriate response from a grateful people? The elements of this response – to fear, walk in His ways, love, serve and to Keep the commandments, can be related to the first four (4) of the ten (10) commandments,<sup>2</sup> which deals with the relationship between God and human beings. Also, they all amount to one thing, which is Worship, made possible only because of Obedience.<sup>3</sup> It is the lack of Obedience that has plunged humanity into the abyss of sorrow, pains, and enslavement to the devil and corruption, from which no human effort or invention can deliver.<sup>4</sup> This call also speaks to a quality – Gratefulness/Gratitude - that is missing in the relationship of human beings with God. Throughout the generations, human beings have displayed a gross lack of gratitude to the Almighty God. It is this fault coupled with the lack of appreciation, which led Eve to disobey and rebel against God in the first place. Generations after this grave and devastating event, human beings still display ingratitude to God. They would not worship God or give Him the pride of place and glory due Him,<sup>5</sup> yet they continue to enjoy and demand blessings from Him! And when it pleases them, they resort to sacrifices, instead of Obedience and true worship of the Almighty God. It was for this reason that God reminded the new generation of Israelites through Prophet Jeremiah, that when He delivered their ancestors from bondage in the land of Egypt, He demanded only Obedience and not sacrifice.<sup>6</sup> That reminder is very appropriate for our generation!

In previous weeks, **we observed that Obedience means Compliance, and choosing God’s Way not our own.** This week I would like **to look at Obedience from the standpoint of Worship.** As has been noted, the elements of **what God required from the Israelites, and by application every human being, is Worship.** But this is one thing that human beings find difficult to give to God. We noted last week that when human beings knew God and what He required of them, they rejected Him and instead worshiped themselves, wood, stone, and even reptiles.<sup>7</sup> This pattern is still prevalent today and at a broader and more sophisticated level, which is also true of most churches. It is no gain saying that the disposition of human beings since the Fall is to disobey God. **Individuals of every kind, including church leaders arrogate to themselves the position and power of a thing god to be worshipped. This is the result of allowing the devil, who wanted to be God, and take the place of the Almighty God to be in control of their lives. Everyone with this spirit of the devil has joined him in resisting the Almighty God, in His Lordship and Authority over His own creation.** But why is worship so important? Why do people want to be worshipped? **The answer is in what I consider to be the root word of worship, which is ‘worth-ship’ – something or someone worthy of worship. But Only the Almighty God is Worthy of Worship, because He is the Creator of ALL THINGS, and so deserve to be Worshipped; He is the One that is Worthy of Worship, since He is the Creator.**<sup>8</sup> Creatures cannot be talking of worship where their Creator is! This is the conflict and challenge that the devil has brought into the world because of his rebellion against God, in his quest to be God. He, it is who wanted to **“ascend to heaven and set my throne above God’s stars. I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High.”<sup>9</sup>** and when he failed, was dismissed from heaven with the 33% of spirit beings that sided with him in his rebellion.<sup>10</sup> So, it must be stated that everyone who demands worship, is playing the game of satan against God - Rebellion.<sup>11</sup>

The issue of worship is very important. This is because the one or thing that is worshipped, not only deserves it, but is also supreme over the worshippers. The devil tempted Jesus Christ with this requirement but failed, but Adam and Eve failed, and so yielded their independence to satan.<sup>12</sup> Consequently, all human beings by implication yielded their independence to satan, and hence satan is able to govern and rule their lives, as is the case with human beings today.<sup>13</sup> In general terms, anything or anyone that takes the focus of our attention, is the object of our worship, and is our god. But all things are either under the control of the Almighty God or satan, there is no neutral ground. The Scripture makes it clear that when human beings knew God and His expectations, but refused to worship God, they started worshipping themselves and inanimate objects instead.<sup>14</sup> This refusal is disobedience, which is rebellion, which carries grave consequences<sup>15</sup> The Almighty God has also provided a way of reconciliation for mankind, in the Person of Jesus Christ. Anyone who does not



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believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Only Saviour does not know the Almighty God,<sup>16</sup> and is living in disobedience, and is under the bondage of satan. And not accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, is not only disobedience, but also rebellion against the Almighty God, who has made Jesus Christ the Only Saviour of the world.<sup>17</sup>

**But accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, is accepting to worship Him. The One who is worshipped commands loyalty, respect, and honour.** This is what God required from the Israelites when He rescued them from bondage in the land of Egypt. The same is true for humanity today. The whole world is lost to satan and sin, and God provided the Only Solution for the redemption of humanity. **Those who accept this way of redemption must worship the One who has redeemed them. It is not any form of government, Institution, Group or Person, who redeemed humanity, and so none of these or any other created thing deserve worship. Only the Almighty God deserves the worship of humanity. Not to worship the Almighty God is Disobedience and Rebellion with grave consequences.** This is where church leaders need to be very careful. **Many of them present as thin gods to be worshipped, diverting the worship due the Lord Jesus to themselves.**<sup>18</sup> **They will be made to pay at the appropriate time, because this was the sin of lucifer, who later became called satan.** When John, over-whelmed by the glory and the revelation given to him, wanted to worship the angel used by God to deliver the revelation, the angel refused the worship, and directed him to worship the Almighty God alone.<sup>19</sup> True worship must have the Almighty God as its focus, but it is not possible to worship the Almighty God in an acceptable way except through the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, acceptable worship of the Almighty God is through Jesus Christ. He is the One who is the Mediator between the Almighty God and human beings, having shed His Blood and been given the Name that is above every other Name. This is the Name at which every knee must bow and every tongue confess His Lordship.<sup>20</sup> To do otherwise is futile, and leads one away from the true God, to the gods of human imaginations<sup>21</sup>

**True and acceptable worship of God must have the elements of the *fear (awe) of God, walk in His ways, love, serve, and to Keep the commandments of the Almighty God.***<sup>22</sup> This is the pattern in heaven, as was revealed to John, where he saw the twenty-four (24) elders laying down their crowns in continuous worship of the Almighty God.<sup>23</sup> We must learn to at the minimum mimic this pattern, just as Moses was told to make the Tabernacle in the wilderness to be the same as what is in heaven that God revealed to him.<sup>24</sup> **Worship is NOT for human beings, but for the Almighty God alone. He alone deserves our worship, and to do otherwise is disobedience and rebellion.**<sup>25</sup>

*Have A God Centred And Focussed 2026.*

**Further & Daily Readings: Deut.10:10-18; Rom. 1:18-32. 1. Deut.10:12; 2. Exd. 20:2-11; 3. Luke 6:46; 4. Gen.3; 5. Rom.1:23-25; 6. Jer. 7:21-23; 7. Rom.1:23; 8. Isaiah 45:5-7; Rev.4:11; 9. Isaiah 14:13-14; 10. Rev. 12:4, 7-9; 11. 1Sam. 15:19, 22-23; 12. Matt. 4:8-10; Gen.3:1-6; 13. Rev.20:8, 10; 14. Rom.1:23-25; 15. Rev.21:8; 1Sam.15:23; 16. 1Jn.3:10; 17. Acts 2:23-24, 32-33, 36; Jn.17:1-3; 18. Phil.2:9-11; Col.1:15-18; 19. Rev.19:10; 20. Phil.2:9-11; Heb.12:24; 21. Col.2:8, 16-18, 21-23; 22. Deut.10:12-13; 23. Rev.4:8-11; 24. Exd.25:8-9, 40; 25. Rev.4:11.**