

March 2, 1997 Judah

To Command your Children

1 Chr 28:7-9

Rebellion must go on outside the community... not within!

Jn 7:37-39 — "All those who believe will have a river of life flowing from them" (lacking no one who believes). Those are the people who live in the community. Normally those who have been trained up in the way they should go in the community, according to the seed of Abraham, are the best disciples. If someone wants to live in the community, and he and his family meet the qualification of "being in the community," according to Jn 7:38, speaking of the spirit that those who truly believe have now received... they will be a great help, they will function in order in the Body, and all their gifts can be used to build up the kingdom.

People who do not show the fruit of the spirit should not be in the community, since they will be excluded from the kingdom of God (Gal 5:20-21). Yes, you forebear with the people's weaknesses. But 1 Jn 3:9,10 says they belong to the devil if they KEEP ON sinning, disobeying. They do not have to KEEP ON sinning, disobeying. No one can make them disobey, be rebellious. The evil one is not a tyrant over them. He cannot make them do anything. He is defeated and we do not have to give in to him. He does not even control the world, those who do not want to be controlled by him... he is the ruler of the world, but he cannot dominate people's mind and heart because people would not be able to ever live by their conscience.

So, their rebellion makes them hold on to their bad ways. Ex 20:5 — It is not weakness. So, if people will not produce the fruit of the Spirit they must either repent and be saved or they must leave the community. Because we all belong to Messiah (Gal 5:24), so we bear the fruit of the Spirit!

"I have chosen him to command his sons." Did He choose us to command our sons? *If I thought that you were not going to command your sons, I would not have chosen you* (Gal 3:29). Those who belong to Him — Rom 8:9.

**If anyone is not commanding his children**, he is not to be doing anything in the Body, except be menial servants, having no responsibility. He should not be commanding anyone else since God cannot command him in this most essential thing. It is not a lack of ability on their part. He chose them to command their households, so it must be *rebellion* on their part that hinders them from being obedient. Otherwise, they just became Christians, that is all.

It seems like certain people in the community cannot command their households. They need to be called to repentance. They need to fall on their face and scream, for they know they are going to death. They have not called on the same God as the One who chose Abraham. According to Jn 3:18, they are judged "already" because they do not believe... for if they believed they would be like Jn 7:38. *The fruit of the river of life, the obvious fruit, is the man's children*. Just as Gal 5:19, it is obvious... it is factions and strife... rebellion, disobedience... this is all in the children of those who are not commanding their households — this is the fruit of their lives. They may be good in doing certain things in the community, but even there, if you search deeply enough, you will find that they are lacking essential LIFE.

The reason they are going to death is not for weakness, but for rebellion, not obeying His word that they have been in the midst of, dwelling among His people... and yet they refused to be saved from their sins (Ex 20:5).

It is not an excuse that "we just do not have enough time with our children..." That is a wrong concept. If we command our children then the time we do spend with our children will make up for times we must be gone.

It does not say that "I chose him to spend all his time night and day with his children," but to "command them." It is not right to think that a man needs to spend all his time with his children in order to win their hearts.. For you put that same father in a situation where he is with his

children ALL THE TIME and we have seen the same thing happen. This is only an excuse for their rebellion. For such a man will find every reason to be away from his children, even if he is put into a situation where he is forced to be with them all the time. He will still not be with them in his heart. So you can change all the outward circumstances but it will not change the heart. If a man turns his heart, he must use his will to obey...

#### On Dedicating our Children

If they really truly dedicated their children, would not our Father grant the grace to raise those sons as they should go? He would surely supply abundant grace for the task. He wants those sons more than we do! If we dedicated our children, then the Spirit is upon them — *if we dedicated them*. If we dedicated them the Spirit is upon them to save them. If they are dedicated then it shows they have a heart to do our Father's will... For the Spirit is upon both the child and the parent... continually (Lk 11:13), all for the asking.

#### Weakness or Rebellion?

Is *disobedience* weakness or rebellion? We have to come to judge ourselves by that. Is disobedience weakness or rebellion? Gal 3:29 — If we are Abraham's seed we must have an appeal to Abraham's God to help us (Heb 4:16; James 4:6-8). We must be able to earnestly cry out to Him for grace to help us do what he has commanded us to do. But if not, maybe we do not have the God of Abraham after all! Maybe we are following another god, not Abraham's God. He would surely give us the grace to do what He commanded us to do... if we cry out to Him, will he not hear and give us grace? (1 Chr 28:7-10).

#### One Stipulation

*The one "stipulation" for the chosen of YHWH*, as Abraham's seed (Gen 18:19), is Dt 21:18-21... This refers to a rebellious *son*, not to rebellious *parents*. That son was rebellious against the parents who COMMANDED their son. And the parents were not defensive of their son, nor did an elder have to **come to them** about the deeds of their son. Instead they WENT TO THE ELDERS... They had a good conscience about how they had raised their son. It is very important to see the active role of the parents here. They are not oblivious to their child's condition, or even trying to defend it. They are the first to recognize it and see the necessity for judgment.

#### That it May Go Well in the Land

It is obviously "not going well with us in the land" (Dt 5:16). The *land* is the Edah right now. And the behavior of the children is the most important thing... "they must honor their parents as they were COMMANDED..." If they do not, it will "not go well in the land." So, it must be judged whether it is the parent or the child who is rebellious.