

IS GOD PARTICULAR REGARDING WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP? YES!!!

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NOTE: - All Bible texts are taken from the King James Bible; the compiler has supplied all emphasis throughout this Study Document.

John 4:23 & 24: - “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God [is] a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [him] in spirit and in truth.”

☞ God means exactly what he says and says exactly what he means! He is very precise and particular in his instructions and commands to humanity regarding how he is to be worshipped acceptably, and how his work is to be conducted. Unfortunately, many times fallible mortals use their own reasoning and opinions as to what kind of worship God will find acceptable, even going contrary to God’s expressed commands and instructions. Even good and righteous men have done this in the Bible, and God has been sore displeased when they disobey his express injunctions. God severely punished those in Biblical times who went directly contrary to his revealed commands regarding his worship and work. These examples are warnings for us today!

1 Corinthians 10:11: - “Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.”

1. **NADAB & ABIHU:** -

God’s Specific Command: -

Exodus 30:9: - “Ye shall offer no strange incense thereon, nor burnt sacrifice, nor meat offering; neither shall ye pour drink offering thereon.”

Nadab & Abihu’s Disobedience: -

Leviticus 10:1: - “And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not.”

God’s Response: -

Leviticus 10:2: - “And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.”

2. **KING SAUL:** -

God’s Specific Command Through The Prophet Samuel: -

1 Samuel 10:8: - “And thou shalt go down before me to Gilgal; and, behold, I will come down unto thee, to offer burnt offerings, [and] to sacrifice sacrifices of peace offerings: seven days shalt thou tarry, till I come to thee, and show thee what thou shalt do.”

Only the priests from the tribe of Levite could offer sacrifices to God; it was death for any other person to officiate in the priest's place.

Numbers 3:10: - "And thou shalt appoint Aaron and his sons, and they shall wait on their priest's office: **and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.**"

Numbers 18:5 - 7: - "**And ye shall keep the charge of the sanctuary, and the charge of the altar: that there be no wrath any more upon the children of Israel.** And I, behold, I have taken your brethren the Levites from among the children of Israel: to you [they are] given [as] a gift for the LORD, to do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation. **Therefore thou and thy sons with thee shall keep your priest's office for every thing of the altar, and within the veil; and ye shall serve: I have given your priest's office [unto you] as a service of gift: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.**"

King Saul's Disobedience: -

1 Samuel 13:7 - 10: - "And [some of] the Hebrews went over Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he [was] yet in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling. **And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel [had appointed]:** but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. **And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering.** And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him."

God's Response: -

1 Samuel 13:11 - 14: - "And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and [that] thou camest not within the days appointed, and [that] the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash; Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering. **And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him [to be] captain over his people, because thou hast not kept [that] which the LORD commanded thee.**"

3. KING DAVID & THE ARK OF THE COVENANT: -

God's Specific Command: -

Numbers 4:4 - 6, & 15: - "This [shall be] the service of the sons of Kohath in the tabernacle of the congregation, [about] the most holy things: And when the camp setteth forward, Aaron shall come, and his sons, and they shall take down the covering veil, and cover the ark of testimony with it: And shall put thereon the covering of badgers' skins, and shall spread over [it] a cloth wholly of blue, **and shall put in the staves thereof.** ... And when Aaron and his sons have made an end of covering the sanctuary, and all the vessels of the sanctuary, as the camp is to set forward; after that, **the sons of Kohath shall come to bear [it]:** but they shall not touch [any] holy thing, lest they die. These [things are] the burden of the sons of Kohath in the tabernacle of the congregation."

Numbers 7:9: - "But unto the sons of Kohath he gave none: **because the service of the sanctuary belonging unto them [was that] they should bear upon their shoulders.**"

NOTE: - When the Ark of the Covenant was to be transported, after the priests had covered the sacred chest and had put the staves in the sides of it, the Kohathites were to carry it upon their shoulders.

King David's Disobedience: -

2 Samuel 6:1 - 5: - "Again, David gathered together all [the] chosen [men] of Israel, thirty thousand. And David arose, and went with all the people that [were] with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth [between] the cherubims. **And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that [was] in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drave the new cart.** And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which [was] at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark. And David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD on all manner of [instruments made of] fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals."

God's Response: -

2 Samuel 6:6 - 9: - "And when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, **Uzzah put forth [his hand] to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook [it]. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for [his] error; and there he died by the ark of God.** And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzzah: and he called the name of the place Perezuzzah to this day. And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and said, How shall the ark of the LORD come to me?"

It appears that the knowledge of the correct way to transport the Ark of the Covenant had been lost in Israel by David's time. But a careful reading of the following passage seems to indicate that David's sin lay in not seeking to obtain the knowledge from the writings of Moses how the Ark was to be transported. This teaches us that God holds us responsible for not obeying his commandments, when we have the opportunity to learn his truth from his word, and we do not make the effort to be enlightened.

1 Chronicles 15:11 - 13: - "And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites, for Uriel, Asaiah, and Joel, Shemaiah, and Eliel, and Amminadab, and said unto them, Ye [are] the chief of the fathers of the Levites: sanctify yourselves, [both] ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel unto [the place that] I have prepared for it. **For because ye [did it] not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order.**"

4. KING UZZIAH: -

God's Specific Command: -

Only the priests from the tribe of Levi could offer incense unto the Lord.

Numbers 16:40: - "[To be] a memorial unto the children of Israel, **that no stranger, which [is] not of the seed of Aaron, come near to offer incense before the LORD;** that he be not as Korah, and as his company: as the LORD said to him by the hand of Moses."

Numbers 18:7: - "**Therefore thou and thy sons with thee shall keep your priest's office for every thing of the altar,** and within the veil; and ye shall serve: I have given your priest's office [unto you] as a service of gift: **and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.**"

King Uzziah's Disobedience: -

2 Chronicles 26:14 - 16: - "And **Uzziah** prepared for them throughout all the host shields, and spears, and helmets, and habergeons, and bows, and slings [to cast] stones. And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by cunning men, to be on the towers and upon the bulwarks, to shoot arrows and great stones withal. And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvellously helped, till he was strong. But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to [his] destruction: **for he**

transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense.”

God’s Response: -

2 Chronicles 26:17 - 21: - “And Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him fourscore priests of the LORD, [that were] valiant men: And they withstood Uzziah the king, and said unto him, **[It appertaineth] not unto thee, Uzziah, to burn incense unto the LORD, but to the priests the sons of Aaron, that are consecrated to burn incense: go out of the sanctuary; for thou hast trespassed; neither [shall it be] for thine honour from the LORD God.** Then Uzziah was wroth, and [had] a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests, **the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, from beside the incense altar.** And Azariah the chief priest, and all the priests, looked upon him, and, behold, he [was] leprous in his forehead, and they thrust him out from thence; yea, himself hasted also to go out, because **the LORD had smitten him. And Uzziah the king was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house, [being] a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the LORD:** and Jotham his son [was] over the king's house, judging the people of the land.”

- **GOD DOES NOT CHANGE!**

Psalms 102:25 - 27: - “Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens [are] the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed: **But thou [art] the same,** and thy years shall have no end.”

Malachi 3:6: - “**For I [am] the LORD, I change not;** therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.”

Hebrews 13:8: - “**Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.**”

- **GOD IS NOT FICKLE.**

Numbers 23:19: - “**God [is] not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent:** hath he said, and shall he not do [it]? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?”

1 Samuel 15:29: - “**And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent:** for he [is] not a man, that he should repent.”

James 1:17: - “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from **the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.**”

A MODERN DAY EXAMPLE OF MANKIND’S DISOBEDIENCE TO ONE OF GOD’S SPECIFIC COMMANDMENTS: -

God has commanded that the seventh day of the week – Saturday is his Sabbath day, and has commanded it to be kept holy.

Exodus 20:8 - 11: - “**Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.** Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: **But the seventh day [is] the sabbath of the LORD thy God:** [in it] thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that [is] within thy gates: For [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is], and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”

God has designated the other 6 days of the week as common working days, in contrast with his holy Sabbath day.
Ezekiel 46:1: - “**Thus saith the Lord GOD;** The gate of the inner court that looketh toward the east shall be shut **the six working days;** but on **the sabbath** it shall be opened, and in the day of the new moon it shall be opened.”

1 Samuel 15:22 & 23: - "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. For rebellion [is as] the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness [is as] iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from [being] king."