

## What Happens When We Disobey God?

### Deuteronomy 11:26-28

*Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; 27 A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: 28 And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.*

### Does God punish you when you disobey Him?

Yes, he cares very much about our actions, both the good actions, and the bad (sinful) actions. If I were you, I wouldn't be listening to the former advice you got! God gave each of us a conscience...con means with...and science means knowledge...so each time we sin, we do it with knowledge that it's wrong. He also wrote his Laws upon our hearts...let me ask you a quick question...do you think that you're a good person? Under men's standards, each of us can think of ourselves as being good...however, we should be looking at what God requires instead. God gave us the Ten Commandments so that we could figure out how we measure up to His standards. 9th Commandment - Have you ever lied? If so, that makes you a liar. 8th Commandment - Have you ever stolen anything, regardless of its value? If so, you're a thief. 3rd Commandment - Have you ever taken God's name in vain? If so, you have taken the name of the God that gave you life and dragged it through the mud, and the Bible calls that blasphemy. Jesus said that if you do so much as look at someone with lust, you commit adultery in your heart. If a person is being honest, the majority would have to answer yes to all of the above. And if you did, you just admitted that God would see you as a lying, thieving, blasphemous, adulterer at heart...and this is only 4 of the 10 Commandments. Then you have to ask yourself the following two questions...would God find you innocent or guilty of breaking His laws? If you're honest, you would have to say that you're just as guilty as the rest of us...would He send you to heaven or hell? Most people here would say heaven, thinking that He would have to be a more forgiving God than this...think about what you're saying here...if God were to let people go into heaven, who have broken His laws, then He would be an unjust (corrupt) judge. Now, let me ask you a final question...what did God do so that we would not have to go to hell?...Two thousand years ago, God became a man in Jesus Christ. He lived a perfect, SINLESS life (did not break any of God's laws), died on the cross, and rose again on the 3rd day after His death. When Jesus was on that cross, He was taking the punishment for the sins of the WHOLE world, including myself. It's like this...you and I broke God's law, but Jesus paid our fine

in His life's blood. So, on the day of judgment God can dismiss our case because of what Jesus did. His righteousness can be imputed to us. The Bible says that you must do two things in order to receive this gift...you must REPENT (turn from your sins)...and put your complete TRUST in Jesus alone for your salvation. Once you do these two things, the Bible says that He will make you a new person. Jesus actually calls it being born again. He'll give you a new heart with new desires. Those sinful things that you used to do...you'll no longer want to do them. My only advice after this would be to get yourself a Bible and obey what you read...and also find yourself a good church. I know that this commentary was rather lengthy...but there's nothing more important than YOUR ETERNAL SALVATION.

*"Since it is a righteous thing with God to repay affliction to those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted with us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, giving vengeance to those who don't know God, and to those who don't obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus, who will pay the penalty: eternal destruction from the face of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired among all those who have believed (because our testimony to you was believed) in that day" (II Thessalonians 1:6-10).*

According to Vine's, "Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words", these words are defined as follows:

Transgression – To rebel, to revolt; an absolute breaking away from; living an apostate way of life.

Iniquity – To bend, to deviate from the way; to do wickedly; consequence of an unrighteous act that passes through the generations.

Sin – To pass beyond the limits set by God, to miss the mark, to be guilty of hostility toward God, to cross over a boundary.

In Psalm 19:13 we read, "Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me, then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression."

Vine defines presumptuous sin as "not dreading or shunning through fear, to be very bold, shameless and irreverent daring."

In the model prayer of Matthew 6:9-15, Jesus uses the word trespasses when asking for forgiveness. He said, “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (Verses 14-15)

V.E. Vine defines trespasses as “primarily a false step, a blunder, a deviation from uprightness and truth, a fall beside.”

When Eve disobeyed God and she was called into account, God asked her what was this she had done? Eve did not possess the mental capacity to comprehend the gravity of the sin she had committed! Paul addresses it this way: “For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived fell into transgression.” (I Timothy 2:13-14) Do we understand the consequences of our disobedience at times can be catastrophic?

When the children of Israel disobeyed God in rebellion against the report of Joshua and Caleb regarding the taking of the Promised Land, they paid with their lives! Every person from 20 years old and above died in the wilderness! God told the 10 faithless spies, “And your sons shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years, and bear the brunt of your infidelity, until your carcasses are consumed in the wilderness. According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your iniquity one year, namely forty years, and you shall know my rejection.” (Numbers 14:33-34) Do we realize the consequences of our wrong doing and wrong choices sometimes cause others to suffer?

When Stephen stood boldly before the Jews he called them stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears. He went on to say their fathers had persecuted the prophets who had been sent to them, and they had become the betrayers and murders of Jesus Christ! Luke records, “When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth.” “And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not charge them with this sin.’ And when he had said this, he fell asleep.” (Acts 7:54; 59-60) What is our reaction when our sins are pointed out to us?

When Peter wrote his second letter, in chapter two he addresses the dangers, destruction, and description of false teachers. In his description of the depravity of these false teachers he writes, “...the Lord knows how to deliver the ungodly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,

and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed; they are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries.” (II Peter 2:9-10) What about us? Do we despise the authority of the leaders in the church? Are we self-willed, self-seeking, and self-serving?

When Paul wrote to the church in Galatia, he addressed trespasses. In Galatians 6:1 he wrote, “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.” Are we kind to one another, tenderhearted and forgiving?

We all have our crosses to bear as we attempt daily to follow Christ. We must support, encourage, and pray for one another at all times because our adversary the devil is seeking whom he may devour!

When we become more painfully aware of just how despicable sin is in the sight of God, we will sin less, and less, and less! We will pray the prayer that David prayed, “Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” (Psalm 129:23-24)

### **Can Others Get Hurt if we disobey God?**

If we look at the story of Jonah we see what happens when a prophet, chosen by God, disobeys God. The people of Nineveh were disobeying God. However, God was wanting to reach out to them and to call them to repentance so they would not be cursed.

After Jonah’s three-day stay in the belly of the “large fish” (whale), he did go and preach a word of repentance to the people and they did repent. God did not curse Nineveh.

### **What About Natural Disasters to Punish Sin?**

You see, there are four main problems with the presumption that God uses natural disasters to punish humans for sin. One of them is biblical and the other three are derived from reason, plain old common sense, and fairness.

The biblical contradiction to the idea that God would use storms as punishment for sin can be found in Matthew 5:45, which states the following: "That ye may be the children of your Father which is heaven; for he makes his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."

This verse should make it quite obvious that God sends good and bad weather to everyone, regardless of the goodness or wickedness of its recipients.

The second problem with the whole idea of God punishing sin with the use of natural disasters is the obvious randomness with which they occur. They occur in places where the majority of the people are practicing Christians just as often as they occur in places where the majority of the people are hostile to Christianity. This is consistent with the general fact that bad things often happen to good people, while good things often happen to evil people. That's just the way things work here on earth. Saying that God sends storms and other disasters because of wicked living is inconsistent with everything we can observe on a daily basis and flies in the face of logic and reason.

The third problem with the disasters-as-punishment-for-evil mentality is the simple fact that, no matter how bad a given weather-related disaster is, we can usually check the record book and find one that was much worse years ago. If the world is growing more and more wicked, shouldn't calamities of nature be growing more and more fierce and intense? Wouldn't the record books have to be re-written every year or so? This is simply not the case, as we can almost always find records of worse disasters from the past -- when there was supposedly less evil in the world.

The fourth and final problem is matter of fairness. John F. Kennedy reminded us of the fact that life isn't fair, but isn't God supposed to be? Claiming that God uses natural disasters to punish certain sins opens a whole can of worms in the realm of fairness. Why would God send natural disasters to places where people tolerate lesser sins and allow governments that turn a blind eye to murder and rape to go unpunished? Why would He strike people down for, let's say, adultery and homosexuality and allow a mass murderer like Osama bin Laden to escape justice, if even for a short time? This truth is that God will some day punish or reward everyone based on His standards of justice -- only not in this life.

**Finally, God does punish disobedience, but He did so by punishing Jesus, His Son. Even though we disobey god, as a believer in Jesus, God looks at His sacrifice for our sin and forgives us of our disobedience. But we are not to take advantage of God's grace by continuing to be disobedient (Romans 6:1-14). We are to be transformed by God's grace and live a life worthy of what God has done. Amen.**