

Our Father Cares!

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We are told over and over in God's word that the only way we can have fellowship with God in this world is to do what He has commanded us to do.

A small child sometimes resists the restraints his father has on him, and playfully pulls away from his grasp. So are we, as little children, testing God sometimes to see how far He will let us go. That same child that resists His Father's grip, might run into the path of a car or fall down steps, thus injuring himself.

After testing the father time after time, the father might take the child and give him a good brush on his backside. So does our heavenly Father do to us.

Many times a parent will take a child and tell him what is expected of him, and if he obeys the parent, he will be rewarded by good measures. If he does not obey, then he will be punished and these things will be withheld from him.

In Deuteronomy 28:1-14, the word of God tells of the blessings the children of Israel could receive if they

"hearkened diligently unto the voice of the Lord." Please read those verses carefully.

Throughout the Scriptures, we see children of God who obeyed God. One example is Noah. God told Noah of the evil in the world and how the world would be destroyed because of man's unfaithfulness. He told Noah to build an ark. By building this ark, Noah and all his immediate family were spared.

Another example of an obedient child was Abraham. I'm sure it was very hard for him to get up early that morning and take his child, whom he loved so dearly, to sacrifice to God. He knew within him that God's way was perfect, and he knew that "by the grace of God," his son would be spared. However, he didn't know how. Because of his faith and obedience, his son was spared, and he was blessed.

We are told, also, of King Hezekiah, in II Kings 18, who trusted in the Lord and departed not from following him. Throughout his days, he served the Lord and followed after the Lord,

and he was blessed. Please study his life also.

As soon as a child becomes old enough to know what "No" means, a parent will begin to say "if you do such and such a thing, then I'll do thus and so." God did this in Deuteronomy 28:15-68. He laid down the law for His people and told them what would take place if they were disobedient. Please study this whole chapter carefully!

Throughout the histories of the world, we can see people and nations who have turned from God's ways, and we have seen God's hand as it fell on these nations and brought them down.

There are many examples of these in God's word: Jonah, Adam and Eve, the children of Israel, and America. Yes, America. Our own nation has turned from the ways of God and accepted the ways of Satan.

Read Deuteronomy 28:15-68 and see if you recognize any of these judgements on America.

Our heavenly Father has spoken! Will we obey?

Notice the special words of Jesus saying, "I SAY UNTO YOU!"

(This expression is used 123 times!)

Following are a few times where Jesus said, "**I SAY UNTO YOU!**"

1. "And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for **I say unto you**, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham" (Matthew 3:9).

2. "For verily **I say unto you**, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" (Matt. 5:19).

3. "**But I say unto you**, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire" (Matt. 5:18).

See also Matt. 5:28; 5:32; 5:34; 5:39; 5:44

4. "Therefore when thou doest *thine* alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. **Verily I say unto you, They have their reward**" (Matt. 6:2). (See also Matthew 6:5, 6:16).

5. "Therefore **I say unto you**, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?" (Matt. 6:25).

6. "And yet **I say unto you**, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these" (Matthew 6:29).

7. "When Jesus heard *it*, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, **Verily I say unto you**, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel" (Matt. 8:10).

8. "And **I say unto you**, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 8:11).

9. "Verily **I say unto you**, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city" (Matt. 10:15).

10. "But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily **I say unto you**, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come" (Matt. 10:23).

11. "And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold *water* only in the name of a disciple, verily **I say unto you**, he shall in no wise lose his reward" (Matt. 10:42).

12. "But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, **I say unto you**, and more than a prophet" (Matt. 11:9).

13. "Verily **I say unto you**, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he" (Matt. 11:11).

14. "But **I say unto you**, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you" (Matt. 11:22). See also Matt. 11:24.

15. "But **I say unto you**, That in this place is one greater than the temple" (Matt. 12:6).

16. "Wherefore **I say unto you**, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy *against the Holy Ghost* shall not be forgiven unto men" (Matt. 12:31).

17. "But **I say unto you**, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment" (Matt. 12:36).

18. "For verily **I say unto you**, That many prophets and righteous *men* have desired to see *those things* which ye see, and have not seen *them*; and to hear *those things* which ye hear, and have not heard *them*" (Matt. 13:17).

19. "Verily **I say unto you**, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom" (Matt. 16:28).

20. "But **I say unto you**, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them" (Matt. 17:12).

*See Also Matthew 18:3; 18:10
