



Prayer Resources

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Impacting Future Generations For Prayer

Because you have obeyed the commandment of Jonadab, your father, and kept all his precepts, and done according unto all that he hath commanded you; Therefore, thus saith the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel; Jonadab, the son of Rechab, shall not want a man to stand before me forever.
Jeremiah 35:18,19

What a precious promise God gave to the descendants of Jonadab, the Rechabite: that there would never be a time in the future when at least one of their descendants would not stand before the Throne of God! When God spoke this promise through the prophet Jeremiah, He clearly stated that the promise was the result of the phenomenal obedience that Jonadab's family had exhibited. Since standing before the Throne is not merely a position of pleasure, but also a place of prayer, those who desire a powerful prayer life for their future generations would certainly benefit from an examination of the obedience of Jonadab's descendants, who are often referred to as the Rechabites.

The Rechabites were traditionally obedient in tribal-custom (2 Kings 9,10 and Jeremiah 35:6-10). Jonadab was a nomadic chief recruited by Jehu to help destroy the army of the evil King Ahab and expel Baal worship out of Israel. Almost three hundred years after his successful aid to Jehu, Jonadab's descendants testify in Jeremiah 35 to their faithfulness to the extreme disciplines that their father had placed upon them. In obedience to his command, they had lived a lifestyle of complete abstinence from wine, from building homes and cities, and from planting vineyards. These restrictions were by no means requirements for being Jewish, but perhaps they were instituted by a father who had seen the full-bloomed, grand-scale evil that comes from freedom in these areas and had desired to protect his descendants from that evil. Jonadab had fought against a king whose freedoms had taken him captive and Jonadab had destroyed a false god whom he never wanted his children to embrace. In essence, he was led to personal convictions for his family that many other Israelites viewed as too conservative and legalistic. However, the Rechabites' traditional obedience to these tribal customs gave them many advantages, but perhaps most significantly to note is that while many cultural-influenced Israelites fell back into worshipping Baal and other false gods, the Rechabites did not!

The Rechabites were tenaciously obedient in testing (Jeremiah 35:1-11). When Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon, was invading Israel, the tent-dwelling Rechabites entered the walls of Jerusalem for protection. While they were there, God told Jeremiah to *bring them into the house of the Lord, into one of the chambers, and give them wine to drink.* Jeremiah brought them into the house of the Lord, into the chamber of . . . a man of God, who was by the chamber of the princes and he gave them pots of wine and told them to drink the wine. Imagine the greatest preacher of the day taking someone into the house of the Lord, into the room of a man of God with the rulers of the land in the next room. If ever there was an

atmosphere for obeying a command this was it! But, although the greatest preacher, the house of the Lord, the man of God, and the princes of the land sanctioned drinking the wine, the Rechabites tenaciously refused to drink it and clearly shared their personal convictions for doing so – even at risk of being thrown out of the walled city to the ruthless Babylonians.

The Rechabites were triumphantly obedient in testimony (Jeremiah 35:12-17). God’s purpose in instructing Jeremiah to offer the Rachabites wine was not necessarily to test them, but rather to use their triumphant obedience as a testimony to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Jeremiah, the ultimate “show and tell” prophet, used the uncanny obedience of the Rachabites to contrast the disobedience of Israel and Judah. Their faithful testimony was used by God to communicate clearly the sin of the nation and its consequences.

The Rechabites were trustworthily obedient in transference (Jeremiah 35:18,19). In the midst of the prophet Jeremiah speaking forth the curses that were to come upon the disobedient men of Israel and Judah, he pronounces the wonderful blessing that would come upon the descendants of Jonadab! Their

obedience had passed the test of time and now it had passed the test of ultimate temptation! The trustworthily obedience of the Rechabites would most certainly be transferred from generation to generation and the prophet could make the ultimate prophecy that there would never be a time when a Rechabite would not stand before the Throne of God in both pleasure and in prayer!

While living in a world where spiritual life degenerates from generation to generation, do you desire the joy of knowing that you will always have a descendant standing before the Throne of God in pleasure and in prayer? What are the personal convictions in your life that protect you from being assimilated into an increasingly iniquitous culture? Have you been obedient to these convictions in such a way that your children have also embraced them? If the church or a great preacher condoned these activities, would you be willing to lay aside your convictions? May we pray together that we will remain traditionally, tenaciously, triumphantly, and trustworthily obedient to those convictions that the Lord has placed in our lives and that we will be faithful to transfer them to our children – no matter the cost!