

SESSION 22: PRINCIPLE OF OBEDIENCE

A. Purpose of God for Israel

1. Promise to Abraham: *“And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed...”* Gen. 12:3
2. Psalm 67: *“God be gracious to us and bless us...”*
Why?
 - a. That your way may be known on the earth.
 - b. That your salvation (known) among the nations.
 - c. That all the ends of the earth may fear Him
3. We sum up their calling in the word *“light”*

B. How is the light to go out

1. NT - *“Go into all the world and make disciples.”*
2. Israel was never told to go into the world.
 - a. God gave them a land at the crossroads of ancient cultures.
 - b. Light would go out as people came into that land. **How?**
3. Psalm 67- *God blesses us that all the ends of the earth may fear Him.*
4. God would draw attention to Israel by His great blessing.

C. Nature of Israel's blessing according to Deut. 28:2

1. *All these blessing shall come upon you and overtake you.*
 - a. Picture of being pursued by danger from which you are unable to escape.
 - b. No combination of dangers can upset this.
 - c. Only requirement for blessing was obedience.
2. *All these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.* (Deut. 28:15)
 - a. Israel disobeys the curse is unavoidable.

- b. No combination of preparations are sufficient to keep you safe
3. Summation: *Blessing is dependent on obedience.*

D. Motivation for obedience

1. If that is all we said the answer should be "Obey in order to get the blessing."
2. But more is said...
 - a. At Sinai- "You saw how I loved you - Therefore be loyal to Me."
 - b. At the end of the message- Deut. 30:15-16: *"I set before you life in that I command you to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments."*
 - c. Motivation for obedience is the love God has shone not the blessings He gives.
3. **Maintaining the relationship is key to the success of the nation.**

E. When all this takes place light will go out -And Israel will be blessed.

1. When the blessing is observed people will want to know why.
2. When they look at Israel they will see godliness (God - likeness) displayed.
3. Then they will realize that all this comes because of the relationship with God.

E. If Israel disobeys light will still go out. But they will suffer.

1. God will curse them in their lives
2. People will be attracted and conclude that it was because they disobeyed God.
3. They will learn that God hates sin.

F. Principle of Obedience.

1. God is looking for obedience from a heart of love.
2. For Israel - **Success or failure in the land depends on their relationship with God.**