



## PREPARED FOR HIS SOON RETURN SERIES

13

### TO OBEY IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE

*"Has 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 heed than the fat of rams". 1 Samuel 15: 22-24-NKJV*

In the book of 1 Samuel 13, there is an interesting story about King Saul. When he was anointed as king by Samuel the prophet, he received the following recommendation:

- You shall go down before me to Gilgal; and surely, I will come down to you to offer burnt offerings and make sacrifices of peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, till I come to you and show you what you should do."

It came to pass that Jonathan the son of King Saul attacked the garrison of the Philistines in Geba. The Philistines then gathered thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen and people as the sand of the sea shore, the Bible said, to fight Israel; Saul gathered his people at Gilgal; the people followed him trembling. After 7 days, Samuel the prophet of God did not show up as Saul expected him to. As Saul saw his people scattered from him, he decided to take the place of the prophet of God in offering the burnt offering of peace to the Lord. Strangely, as soon as he finished presenting the burnt offering, Samuel the prophet came. Saul told the prophet that because he did not come in the appointed time, and because the people were going away from him, he felt compelled to do the sacrifice himself.

Here comes the questions:

- when God does not show up on time in your life, and things begin to go wrong, do you tend to take the whole matter in your own hand?
- Do you give God some gifts while going on living the way that pleases you?

That very day, Saul receive the message that the kingdom was to be taken from him.

When David the king sinned against God by killing Uriah his chief commander in order to have his wife, Nathan the prophet of God was sent to tell him that he sinned against God. In his address to God in a prayer of confession, he made a reference to this event of king Saul:

- You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise (Psalm 51:16).
- Jeremiah the prophet made a similar statement in Jeremiah 7:21-23:
  - o this is what the Lord All-Powerful, the God of Israel, says: “Go and offer as many burnt offerings and sacrifices as you want. Eat the meat of those sacrifices yourselves. I brought your ancestors out of Egypt. I spoke to them, but I did not give them any commands about burnt offerings and sacrifices. I only gave them this command: ‘Obey me and I will be your God, and you will be my people. Do all that I command, and good things will happen to you.

Dear friends, what does the Lord requires of us? To give Him money, material things, outward worship, or offerings while continuing in sin? Can we bribe God by giving Him some offerings of all kinds while living a life of disobedience? It will not work; we cannot bribe God. A contrite heart is what pleases God, a heart full of humility and obedience to His ordinances.

When we are God’s disciples, we may experience delay, deception, worry and losses. But those are not reasons to take the prerogatives that belong to Him in our life. If we trust God, we will wait for His timing, and He will always come at the right time to meet our needs. Let us never forget: God’s time is always the best.

To be able to see His face through the last tribulation of this planet, we are to have the patience of the patriarchs of old who kept the commandments of God and had the faith of Jesus; we need a faith that stands the test of time, the test of loss, and the test of delay.

May God help us to obey Him no matter the cost. Amen!

Yours in the blessed hope.

- Edem Fabrice Ameyou

*To See His Face Ministries Intl*