

God's leaders must address their

"REBELLION"

August 24, 2020

1 SAMUEL 15:22-23 NKJV – (22) So Samuel said: "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.

(23) For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king."

The bible says that rebellion is as a spirit of witchcraft. It compares rebellion to witchcraft because rebellion is a conscious, open, intentional, Bladen disregard for God. It's not a mistake, it's not an accident, it's not I forgot what God told me to do. We just openly rebelled. We go in the opposite direction of our own choice.

In only two verses we see God's heart on obedience, the spirit behind both rebellion and stubbornness, how God views them, and the very real and dire consequences of disobedience to God's voice. First let's look at God's heart on obedience. These verses make a very interesting point that obedience is better than sacrifice, though sometimes obedience may seem like sacrifice, the truth is that for us, most of the hardships we go through are a result of us ignoring God's voice warning us of how to avoid them.

Now let us look closely at the phrase "for rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft". Does God really look so strongly on the sin of rebellion as to compare it to witchcraft, and if so (as this verse implies) then why? To answer that we need to first look at the word "Rebellion". There are times when we are tricked by the enemy and we make an honest mistake, yes we sinned but God knows we didn't mean to and our hearts intent was to follow Him but we were deceived. Once we realize our mistake we must repent and turn away from that sin less we fall into rebellion. You see there are times when we all disobey God, the discerning factor here is whether that disobedience was intentional or unintentional. If God has made Himself clear to you and you willingly choose to disobey, then you are in rebellion.

We would be surprised of how people use God's power to manipulate things to go the direction they want it to go. They will use their position or anything they can manipulate and witchcraft is purely manipulation. Anytime you try to infringe your will over on somebody else to make them to what you think they ought to do, you are engaging in witchcraft. Anyone who we are trying to move you away from God's will or God's purpose for their own agenda is truly engaged in witchcraft. It doesn't matter how nice they are, it doesn't matter about their accolades or accomplishments.

If they fall under the defining I gave you, spiritually they are engaged in witchcraft! Saul is rebellious, he's a manipulator. He thinks he can do whatever he wants to do. He thinks he can reverse God's plan for Agag. Remember, whatever God says it is, it is. Saul's rebellion caused him to die. Is there possibly any place in our life, where rebellion might be the sword that could kill us? **REPENT!**

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 SAMUEL 12:14-15

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: God did not spare angels when they sinned!

"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"