



# The Good News

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## *Considering the Consequences*

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Throughout the Old Testament, we find numerous examples of individuals and groups of people that chose to disobey God. We find that, in the end, they were punished for their disobedience. Examples are given to us such as Korah and those who followed him in questioning the leadership of Moses in Numbers 16. We find that these individuals, and their families, were destroyed because of their disobedience and failure to consider the consequences of questioning those that God had placed in authority. Consider how God covers all three possible scenarios of conduct with the Hebrews and tells them precisely what will be the result of each:

**Obey God: Lev. 26:1-13** – God describes for the people precisely what they can expect should they decide to follow God and obey His commands. He describes three consequences: there will be physical blessings, emotional and mental blessings, and spiritual blessings given to those who would obey Him. He describes these consequences succinctly and encourages the people to heed His commands.

**Disobey God: Lev. 26:14-39** – As He did with obedience, God describes to the people what they can expect should they make the choice to disobey God's commands and follow after the desires of their hearts and worship to idols. He again describes three consequences: physical hardship, emotional and mental unrest and fear, and spiritual severance from their God.

**Disobey but turn back to God: Lev. 26:40-45** – The alternative ending to choice num

ber 2 that the people could choose was that, when they turned away from God, they could turn back to Him to obey Him once again. God again describes three consequences of this choice: a) The people would still have to live with the consequence of their initial disobedience, b) The character of the people would have to change to include humility and acknowledging of their guilt in disobeying God, and c) If penitent and ready to obey, God will still be faithful and will stay true to His promises.

As we read the history of the Israelites we find that they did turn away from God, and all of the consequences of their actions rested fully upon their shoulders. All of the consequences God described came to pass, but God remained faithful and helped those who turned back to Him. We find that these same scenarios exist for us today, including all of the consequences that God describes. We must make sure that every choice we make, every action we take, is carefully weighed to make sure it aligns with the overall consequence we seek: do we seek salvation or do we seek damnation? We will reap what we sow; therefore...are we sowing the seeds of salvation today?