

“Obey to Be Blessed Now—Part 1”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy's website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Oct. 25, 2025.

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I began a series. The presentation was related to the presentation that I gave on Saturday, Oct. 18 (which was titled “Reminder—Why Do You Obey God?”). In that presentation, I presented three reasons why we obey God.

Those three reasons were the following.

- To be blessed now
- To be blessed at the resurrection
- To glorify and to honor the Father and the Son

My plan is to give two presentations for each of those three concepts. (That will be a six-part series with two presentations in October and four presentations in November.)

The title of last Wednesday's presentation was “Obey to Be Blessed Now—Part 1.”

An important reminder is that obeying God is wise, and disobeying God is stupid. The scriptures selected for the presentation and for this article were chosen from the Pentateuch.

The creation

- Genesis 1:31—God saw everything that He had made, and it was very good.
- Genesis 2:1-13—God rested on the seventh day, blessed the seventh day and sanctified it.
- Genesis 2:7—The Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground.
- Genesis 2:16-17—The Lord God told the man that he could eat of every tree in the garden, except from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil—warning him about death if he ate from that tree.
- Genesis 2:21-24—The Lord God made Eve.

The deception

- Genesis 3:1-3—The serpent asked questions of Eve to manipulate her.
- Genesis 3:4-6—The serpent misled Eve, and she (and her husband) disobeyed.
- Genesis 3:7—Now, they knew they were naked.
- Genesis 3:8-12—They hid from the Lord God.

- Genesis 3:13—She realized that the serpent deceived her.
- Genesis 3:14-15—The serpent heard about consequences.
- Genesis 3:16—The woman heard about consequences.
- Genesis 3:17-19—The man heard about consequences.
- Genesis 3:22-23—The Lord God decided to send them out of the garden before they ate of the tree of life.
- Genesis 3:24—When the Lord God drove them out, He placed a cherub and a flaming sword to guard the tree of life.

Cain's sin

- Genesis 4:4-5—The Lord respected Abel and his offering, but the Lord did not respect Cain and his offering. (Cain became angry.)
- Genesis 4:6-7—The Lord asked Cain why he was angry, reminding him: "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door."
- Genesis 4:8-15—When Cain killed Abel, Cain became a fugitive and a vagabond.

The giants

- Genesis 6:1-4—Sons of God and the daughters of men bore children, and they were called giants (*nephilim*).

There are various speculative theories about what Genesis 6:1-4 means. Please be careful to avoid believing highly speculative theories. Please be even more careful to avoid promoting highly speculative theories.

Why the flood?

- Genesis 6:5—The Lord saw the excessive wickedness and the evil hearts.
- Genesis 6:6—"The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart."
- Genesis 6:7—The Lord said that He would destroy man, beasts, creeping things and birds.
- Genesis 8:21—The Lord saw that "the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth."

The Exodus

- Exodus 12:7—The Lord gave Moses crucial instructions about the blood on the doorposts.
- Exodus 12:13—The Lord stressed to Moses that the Israelites follow the instructions.
- Exodus 12:22-23—Moses stressed to the elders that they follow the instructions.
- Exodus 20:1-2—After the children of Israel were delivered by following instructions, the Lord gave them 10 specific instructions.

Choose life

- Deuteronomy 5:28-29—Moses quoted the Lord saying: “Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear [respect] Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!”
- Deuteronomy 6:24—Moses said: “The LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear [respect] the LORD our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive.”
- Deuteronomy 8:1—Moses quoted the Lord saying: “Every commandment which I command you today, you must be careful to observe—that you may live and multiply and go in and possess the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers.”
- Deuteronomy 8:2-5—The circumstances of spending 40 years in the wilderness were to help them to learn the following: “As a man chastens his son, so the LORD Your God chastens you.”
- Deuteronomy 30:15-16—Moses quoted the Lord saying: “I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments, His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply—and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess.”
- Deuteronomy 30:19—Moses quoted the Lord saying: “I call heaven and earth (as witnesses today against you) that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing. Therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live.”