

~REBELLIOUSNESS (701)

•• Early History

•• In Israel

•• King Zedekiah's Covenant-Breaking Rebellion

•• Among Christians

•• Subjection To Governmental Authority Proper

• **Disobedience or resistance to and defiance of a superior authority.** Pride, selfishness, outside pressures, disagreement with the judgment of a superior, and a desire to get out from under subjection or oppression, either real or imagined, have been among the leading causes for rebellion.

•• Early History

• **Rebellion** against God **had its start in the invisible realm.** By means of a serpent, a spirit creature, who later became known as Satan the Devil, endeavored to get the first woman Eve to **rebel** against her Creator.

• He made **rebellion** attractive, presenting it as a course that would lead to enlightenment. Eve gave in to the selfish ambition to be like God, in the sense of determining for herself what was good and what was bad instead of abiding by God's judgment on this matter. Imagining herself to be deprived of something that she had now come to view as rightfully belonging to her, Eve chose to transgress God's command.

• Later her husband Adam yielded to her pressure and joined in this rebellion. He did so, not because he was deceived into thinking that the serpent was speaking the truth, but evidently because he selfishly chose the companionship of his sinful wife in preference to the approval of God.

• Now the serpent proved to be the most cautious of all the wild beasts of the field that Yehowah God had made. So it began to say to the woman; Is it really so that God said you must not eat from every tree of the garden? (**Genesis 3:1**)

• At this the woman said to the serpent; Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat. (**Genesis 3:2**)

- But as for eating of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, God has said; You must not eat from it, no, you must not touch it that you do not die. (**Genesis 3:3**)
- At this the serpent said to the woman; You positively will not die. (**Genesis 3:4**)
- For God knows that in the very day of your eating from it your eyes are bound to be opened and you are bound to be like God, knowing good and bad. (**Genesis 3:5**)
- Consequently the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was something to be longed for to the eyes, yes, the tree was desirable to look upon. So she began taking of its fruit and eating it. Afterward she gave some also to her husband when with her and he began eating it. (**Genesis 3:6**)
- Also, Adam was not deceived, but the woman was thoroughly deceived and came to be in transgression. (**1 Timothy 2:14**)

See Also TREES (Figurative Use)

- For centuries afterward it appears that the majority of mankind did not want to submit themselves to God. From the time of Abel's death until the birth of Noah, a period of more than 926 years, only Enoch is specifically mentioned as one who walked with God.
- And after his fathering Methuselah Enoch went on walking with the true God three hundred years. Meanwhile he became father to sons and daughters. (**Genesis 5:22**)
- **Rebelliousness** also continued to spread in the heavenly realm. In Noah's day, angels, desiring sensual pleasure, disobediently forsook their heavenly posts, materialized human bodies, married women, and fathered offspring.
- The Nephilim proved to be in the earth in those days, and also after that, when the sons of the true God continued to have relations with the daughters of men and they bore sons to them, they were the mighty ones who were of old, the men of fame. (**Genesis 6:4**)
- In this state also he went his way and preached to the spirits in prison. (**1 Peter 3:19**)

- **Who had once been disobedient when the patience of God was waiting in Noah's days, while the ark was being constructed, in which a few people, that is, eight souls, were carried safely through the water. (1 Peter 3:20)**
- **Certainly if God did not hold back from punishing the angels that sinned, but, by throwing them into Tartarus, delivered them to pits of dense darkness to be reserved for judgment. (2 Peter 2:4)**
- **And he did not hold back from punishing an ancient world, but kept Noah, a preacher of righteousness, safe with seven others when he brought a deluge upon a world of ungodly people. (2 Peter 2:5)**
- **And the angels that did not keep their original position but forsook their own proper dwelling place he has reserved with eternal bonds under dense darkness for the judgment of the great day. (Jude 1:6)**
- **By Noah's time the spirit of **rebelliousness** had so saturated mankind that Yehowah God saw fit to destroy the human race by means of a flood. Only Noah and his immediate family, eight persons all together, were found worthy of preservation.**
- **Consequently Yehowah saw that the badness of man was abundant in the earth and every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only bad all the time. (Genesis 6:5)**
- **And Yehowah felt regrets that he had made men in the earth, and he felt hurt at his heart. (Genesis 6:6)**
- **So Yehowah said; I am going to wipe men whom I have created off the surface of the ground, from man to domestic animal, to moving animal and to flying creature of the heavens, because I do regret that I have made them. (Genesis 6:7)**
- **But Noah found favor in the eyes of Yehowah. (Genesis 6:8)**
- **On this very day Noah went in, and Shem and Ham and Japheth, Noah's sons, and the wife of Noah and the three wives of his sons with him, into the ark. (Genesis 7:13)**
- **Thus he wiped out every existing thing that was on the surface of**

the ground, from man to beast, to moving animal and to flying creature of the heavens, and they were wiped off the earth, and only Noah and those who were with him in the ark kept on surviving. (**Genesis 7:23**)

•• In Israel

- Years later Yehowah God began to deal exclusively with the nation of Israel. Yet throughout Israel's history there were numerous cases of **rebellion** against Yehowah and against his representatives, on a national, group, or individual level.
- In certain cases those who **rebelled** were not constantly **rebellious persons**. For example, Moses and Aaron faithfully served Yehowah God for many years.
- However, when subjected to the pressure of quarreling Israelites on one occasion, they lost self-control and **rebelliously** failed to give glory to God for a miraculous provision of water.
- Later Yehowah said to Moses and Aaron; Because you did not show faith in me to sanctify me before the eyes of the sons of Israel, therefore you will not bring this congregation into the land that I shall certainly give them. (**Numbers 20:12**)
- Aaron will be gathered to his people, for he will not enter into the land that I shall certainly give to the sons of Israel, on the ground that you men rebelled against my order respecting the waters of Meribah. (**Numbers 20:24**)
- When you have seen it, then you must be gathered to your people, yes, you, just as Aaron your brother was gathered. (**Numbers 27:13**)
- Inasmuch as you men rebelled against my order in the wilderness of Zin at the quarreling of the assembly, in relation to sanctifying me by the waters before their eyes. These are the waters of Meribah at Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin. (**Numbers 27:14**)
- But the nation as a whole was so persistent in its **rebellious** course that,
- And you must say to **Rebelliousness**, to the house of Israel; This

is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; That is enough of you because of all your detestable things, O house of Israel. (Ezekiel 44:6)

- Applies the name, **Rebelliousness**, to the house of Israel, as if the nation of Israel came to **personify rebelliousness**.
- Yehowah God did not leave such **rebelliousness** unpunished.
- But if you will not obey the voice of Yehowah and you will actually rebel against the order of Yehowah, the hand of Yehowah will certainly prove to be against you and your fathers. (1 Samuel 12:15)
- For **rebelliousness is the same as the sin of divination**, and pushing ahead presumptuously the same as using uncanny power and teraphim. Since you have rejected the word of Yehowah, he accordingly rejects you from being king. (1 Samuel 15:23)
- And he began to call out to the man of the true God that had come out of Judah, saying; This is what Yehowah has said; For the reason that you rebelled against the order of Yehowah and did not keep the commandment with which Yehowah your God commanded you. (1 Kings 13:21)
- But you went back that you might eat bread and drink water in the place about which he spoke to you; Do not eat bread or drink water, your dead body will not come into the burial place of your forefathers. (1 Kings 13:22)
- When the prophet that had brought him back from the way heard of it, he immediately said; It is the man of the true God that rebelled against the order of Yehowah, and so Yehowah gave him to the lion, that he might crush him and put him to death, according to the word of Yehowah that he spoke to him. (1 Kings 13:26)
- God will certainly hold them guilty, they will fall due to their own counsels. In the multitude of their transgressions let there be a dispersing of them, because they have rebelled against you. (Psalms 5:10)
- But if you people refuse and are actually rebellious, with a sword

- you will be eaten up, for the very mouth of Yehowah has spoken it. (Isaiah 1:20)**
- **But they themselves rebelled and made his Holy Spirit feel hurt. He now was changed into an enemy of theirs, he himself warred against them. (Isaiah 63:10)**
 - **Make mention of it, you people, yes, to the nations. Publish it against Jerusalem. Watchers are coming from a land far away, and they will let out their voice against the very cities of Judah. (Jeremiah 4:16)**
 - **Like guards of the open field they have become against her on all sides, because she has rebelled even against me, is the utterance of Yehowah. (Jeremiah 4:17)**
 - **Your way and your dealings, there will be a rendering of these to you. This is the calamity upon you, for it is bitter, because it has reached clear to your heart. (Jeremiah 4:18)**
 - **And the sons began to rebel against me. In my statutes they did not walk, and my judicial decisions they did not keep by doing them, which, should the man keep doing, he will also keep living by them. My Sabbaths they profaned. So I promised to pour out my rage upon them, in order to bring my anger to its finish upon them in the wilderness. (Ezekiel 20:21)**
 - **Samaria will be held guilty, for she is actually rebellious against her God. By the sword they will fall. Their own children will be dashed to pieces, and their pregnant women themselves will be ripped up. (Hosea 13:16)**
 - **His Law demanded the death penalty for those persisting in rebellion against parents.**
 - **In case a man happens to have a son who is stubborn and rebellious, he not listening to the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and they have corrected him but he will not listen to them. (Deuteronomy 21:18)**
 - **His father and his mother must also take hold of him and bring him out to the older men of his city and to the gate of his place. (Deuteronomy 21:19)**

- **And they must say to the older men of his city; This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He is not listening to our voice, being a glutton and a drunkard. (Deuteronomy 21:20)**
- **Then all the men of his city must pelt him with stones, and he must die. So you must clear away what is bad from your midst, and all Israel will hear and indeed become afraid. (Deuteronomy 21:21)**
- **Divine execution came upon proud and ambitious Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and those associated with them in the rebellion against Moses and Aaron, God's appointed representatives.**
- **When the Israelites disputed the rightness of this execution and manifested a rebellious spirit toward Moses and Aaron, 14,700 more perished by a scourge from Yehowah.**
- **And Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, proceeded to get up, together with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, the sons of Reuben. (Numbers 16:1)**
- **And they proceeded to rise up before Moses, they and two hundred and fifty men of the sons of Israel, chieftains of the assembly, summoned ones of the meeting, men of fame. (Numbers 16:2)**
- **So they congregated themselves against Moses and Aaron and said to them; That is enough of you, because the whole assembly are all of them holy and Yehowah is in their midst. Why, then, should you lift yourselves up above the congregation of Yehowah? (Numbers 16:3)**
- **After that Moses got up and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the older men of Israel went with him. (Numbers 16:25)**
- **Then he spoke to the assembly, saying; Turn aside, please, from before the tents of these wicked men and do not touch anything that belongs to them, that you may not be swept away in all their sin. (Numbers 16:26)**
- **Immediately they got away from before the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan and Abiram, from every side, and Dathan and Abiram came out, taking their stand at the entrance of their tents,**

together with their wives, and their sons and their little ones.
(Numbers 16:27)

- Then Moses said; By this you will know that Yehowah has sent me to do all these deeds, that it is not of my own heart:
(Numbers 16:28)
- If it is according to the death of all mankind that these people will die and with the punishment of all mankind that punishment will be brought upon them, then it is not Yehowah that has sent me. (Numbers 16:29)
- But if it is something created that Yehowah will create, and the ground has to open its mouth and swallow up them and everything that belongs to them and they have to go down alive into Sheol, you will then know for certain that these men have treated Yehowah disrespectfully. (Numbers 16:30)
- And it came about that as soon as he had finished speaking all these words, the ground that was under them began to be split apart. (Numbers 16:31)
- And the earth proceeded to open its mouth and to swallow up them and their households and all humankind that belonged to Korah and all the goods. (Numbers 16:32)
- So down they went, and all who belonged to them, alive into Sheol, and the earth went covering them over, so that they perished from the midst of the congregation. (Numbers 16:33)
- And all the Israelites who were round about them fled at the screaming of them, for they began to say; We are afraid that the earth may swallow us up! (Numbers 16:34)
- And a fire came out from Yehowah and proceeded to consume the two hundred and fifty men offering the incense. (Numbers 16:35)
- Yehowah now spoke to Moses, saying; (Numbers 16:36)
- Say to Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest that he should take up the fire holders from within the conflagration, And you scatter the fire over there, for they are holy. (Numbers 16:37)

- **Even the fire holders of these men who sinned against their own souls. And they must make them into thin metal plates as an overlaying for the altar, because they presented them before Yehowah, so that they became holy, and they should serve as a sign to the sons of Israel. (Numbers 16:38)**
- **Accordingly Eleazar the priest took the copper fire holders, which those who had been burned up had presented, and they proceeded to beat them out into an overlaying for the altar. (Numbers 16:39)**
- **As a memorial for the sons of Israel, to the end that no strange man who is not of the offspring of Aaron should come near to make incense smoke before Yehowah, and no one might become like Korah and his assembly, just as Yehowah had spoken to him by means of Moses. (Numbers 16:40)**
- **And directly the next day the whole assembly of the sons of Israel began to murmur against Moses and Aaron, saying; You men, you have put Yehowah's people to death. (Numbers 16:41)**
- **And it came about that when the assembly had congregated themselves together against Moses and Aaron, they then turned toward the tent of meeting, and, look! The cloud covered it, and Yehowah's glory began to appear. (Numbers 16:42)**
- **And Moses and Aaron proceeded to come before the tent of meeting. (Numbers 16:43)**
- **Then Yehowah spoke to Moses, saying; (Numbers 16:44)**
- **You men, rise up from the midst of this assembly, that I may exterminate them in an instant. At this they fell upon their faces. (Numbers 16:45)**
- **After that Moses said to Aaron; Take the fire holder and put fire from upon the altar in it and put on incense and go to the assembly in a hurry and make atonement for them, because the indignation has gone out from the face of Yehowah. The plague has started! (Numbers 16:46)**
- **Aaron at once took it, just as Moses had spoken, and went running into the midst of the congregation, and, look! The plague had started among the people. So he put the incense on**

- and began making atonement for the people. (**Numbers 16:47**)
- **And he kept standing between the dead and the living. Eventually the scourge was stopped. (Numbers 16:48)**
 - **And those dead from the scourge amounted to fourteen thousand seven hundred, aside from those dead on account of Korah. (Numbers 16:49)**
 - **When at last Aaron returned to Moses at the entrance of the tent of meeting, the scourge had been stopped. (Numbers 16:50)**
 - **Often Yehowah let other nations serve as instruments to inflict punishment upon the Israelites when they yielded to the pressure to be like the surrounding nations and rebelliously abandoned true worship.**
 - **So I, in turn, have said; I shall not drive them away from before you, and they must become snares to you, and their gods will serve as a lure to you. (Judges 2:3)**
 - **And the sons of Israel fell to doing what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah and serving the Baals. (Judges 2:11)**
 - **Thus they abandoned Yehowah the God of their fathers who had brought them out of the land of Egypt and went following other gods from among the gods of the peoples who were all around them and they began bowing down to them, so that they offended Yehowah. (Judges 2:12)**
 - **Thus they abandoned Yehowah and took up serving Baal and the Ashtoreth images. (Judges 2:13)**
 - **At this Yehowah's anger blazed against Israel, so that he gave them into the hands of the pillagers, and they began to pillage them, and he proceeded to sell them into the hand of their enemies round about, and they were no longer able to stand before their enemies. (Judges 2:14)**
 - **Everywhere that they went out, the hand of Yehowah proved to be against them for calamity, just as Yehowah had spoken and just as Yehowah had sworn to them, and they got to be in very sore straits. (Judges 2:15)**

- So Yehowah would raise up judges, and they would save them out of the hand of their pillagers. (**Judges 2:16**)
- And they kept serving as agents to test Israel so as to know whether they would obey Yehowah's commandments that he had commanded their fathers by means of Moses. (**Judges 3:4**)
- And the sons of Israel dwelt in among the Canaanites, the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. (**Judges 3:5**)
- However, they became disobedient and rebelled against you and kept casting your Law behind their back, and your own prophets they killed, who bore witness against them to bring them back to you, and they went on committing acts of great disrespect. (**Nehemiah 9:26**)
- For this you gave them into the hand of their adversaries, who kept causing them distress, but in the time of their distress they would cry out to you, and you yourself would hear from the very heavens, and in accord with your abundant mercy you would give them saviors who would save them out of the hand of their adversaries. (**Nehemiah 9:27**)

•• **King Zedekiah's Covenant-Breaking Rebellion**

- At the time King Nebuchadnezzar made Judean King Zedekiah a vassal king, he had Zedekiah make a covenant in Yehowah's name. Therefore, when Zedekiah **rebelled** against Nebuchadnezzar, wanting to be free from subjection to a foreign power, he also **rebelled** against Yehowah, in whose name he had obligated himself to be a loyal vassal king. Because of this **rebellion**, Yehowah decreed that Zedekiah would die as a captive in Babylon.
- Further, the king of Babylon made Mattaniah his uncle king in place of him. Then he changed his name to Zedekiah. (**2 Kings 24:17**)
- Twenty-one years old was Zedekiah when he began to reign, and for eleven years he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah from Libnah. (**2 Kings 24:18**)
- And he continued to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes,

- according to all that Jehoiakim had done. ([2 Kings 24:19](#))
- For on account of the anger of Yehowah it took place in Jerusalem and in Judah, until he had cast them out of his sight. And Zedekiah began to rebel against the king of Babylon. ([2 Kings 24:20](#))
 - Twenty-one years old was Zedekiah when he began to reign, and for eleven years he reigned in Jerusalem. ([2 Chronicles 36:11](#))
 - And he continued to do what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah his God. He did not humble himself on account of Jeremiah the prophet at the order of Yehowah. ([2 Chronicles 36:12](#))
 - And even against King Nebuchadnezzar he rebelled, who had made him swear by God, and he kept stiffening his neck and hardening his heart so as not to return to Yehowah the God of Israel. ([2 Chronicles 36:13](#))
 - Even all the chiefs of the priests and the people themselves committed unfaithfulness on a large scale, according to all the detestable things of the nations, so that they defiled the house of Yehowah which he had sanctified in Jerusalem. ([2 Chronicles 36:14](#))
 - And Yehowah the God of their forefathers kept sending against them by means of his messengers, sending again and again, because he felt compassion for his people and for his dwelling. ([2 Chronicles 36:15](#))
 - But they were continually making jest at the messengers of the true God and despising his words and mocking at his prophets, until the rage of Yehowah came up against his people, until there was no healing. ([2 Chronicles 36:16](#))
 - So he brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans, who proceeded to kill their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, neither did he feel compassion for young man or virgin, old or decrepit. Everything He gave into his hand. ([2 Chronicles 36:17](#))
 - And all the utensils, great and small, of the house of the true God and the treasures of the house of Yehowah and the treasures of the king and of his princes, everything he brought to Babylon. ([2](#)

Chronicles 36:18)

- **And he proceeded to burn the house of the true God and pull down the wall of Jerusalem, and all its dwelling towers they burned with fire and also all its desirable articles, so as to cause ruin. (2 Chronicles 36:19)**
- **Furthermore, he carried off those remaining from the sword captive to Babylon, and they came to be servants to him and his sons until the royalty of Persia began to reign. (2 Chronicles 36:20)**
- **To fulfill Yehowah's word by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had paid off its Sabbaths. All the days of lying desolated it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years. (2 Chronicles 36:21)**
- **Say, please, to the rebellious house, Do you people actually not know what these things mean? Say; Look! The king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and proceeded to take its king and its princes and bring them to himself at Babylon. (Ezekiel 17:12)**
- **Furthermore, he took one of the royal seed and concluded a covenant with him and brought him into an oath, and the foremost men of the land he took away. (Ezekiel 17:13)**
- **In order, that the kingdom might become low, unable to lift itself up, that by keeping his covenant it might stand. (Ezekiel 17:14)**
- **But he finally rebelled against him in sending his messengers to Egypt, for it to give him horses and a multitudinous people. Will he have success? Will he escape, he who is doing these things, and who has broken a covenant? And will he actually escape? (Ezekiel 17:15)**
- **As I am alive, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah, in the place of the king who put in as king the one that despised his oath and that broke his covenant, with him in the midst of Babylon he will die. (Ezekiel 17:16)**
- **And by a great military force and by a multitudinous congregation Pharaoh will not make him effective in the war, by throwing up a siege rampart and by building a siege wall, in order to cut off many souls. (Ezekiel 17:17)**

- **And he has despised an oath in breaking a covenant, and, look! He had given his hand and has done even all these things. He will not make his escape. (Ezekiel 17:18)**

•• **Among Christians**

- **Christians have also had to contend with rebellious persons. The apostle Paul foretold an apostasy, or **rebellion**, among professed Christians.**

- **Let no one seduce you in any manner, because it will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness gets revealed, the son of destruction. (2 Thessalonians 2:3)**

- **And already in his time, apostates existed.**

- **Holding faith and a good conscience, which some have thrust aside and have experienced shipwreck concerning their faith. (1 Timothy 1:19)**

- **Hymenaeus and Alexander belong to these, and I have handed them over to Satan that they may be taught by discipline not to blaspheme. (1 Timothy 1:20)**

- **But shun empty speeches that violate what is holy, for they will advance to more and more ungodliness. (2 Timothy 2:16)**

- **And their word will spread like gangrene. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of that number. (2 Timothy 2:17)**

- **These very men have deviated from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already occurred, and they are subverting the faith of some. (2 Timothy 2:18)**

- **For all that, the solid foundation of God stays standing, having this seal; Yehowah knows those who belong to him. And; Let everyone naming the name of Yehowah renounce unrighteousness. (2 Timothy 2:19)**

- **The disciple Jude wrote about those who spoke abusively of glorious ones in the Christian congregation. As the destruction of such rebellious ones was certain, Jude referred to that destruction as if it had already taken place, saying; They have perished in the **rebellious** talk of Korah!**

- In like manner, notwithstanding, these men, too, indulging in dreams, are defiling the flesh and disregarding lordship and speaking abusively of glorious ones. (**Jude 1:8**)
- Too bad for them, because they have gone in the path of Cain, and have rushed into the erroneous course of Balaam for reward, and have perished in the rebellious talk of Korah! (**Jude 1:11**)

See Also APOSTASY

•• Subjection To Governmental Authority Proper

- Instead of **rebelling**, those desiring to gain God's approval as Christ's followers are called upon to be obedient to those taking the lead inside the congregation.
- Be obedient to those who are taking the lead among you and be submissive, for they are keeping watch over your souls as those who will render an account, that they may do this with joy and not with sighing, for this would be damaging to you. (**Hebrews 13:17**)
- And to governmental authorities outside the congregation.
- Continue reminding them to be in subjection and be obedient to governments and authorities as rulers, to be ready for every good work. (**Titus 3:1**)
- To speak injuriously of no one, not to be belligerent, to be reasonable, exhibiting all mildness toward all men. (**Titus 3:2**)
- **Rebellion** against secular governmental authority constitutes a rebellion against God, for these authorities exist by God's permission and it is his will that Christians be subject to them as long as what they require does not conflict with his Law.
- Let every soul be in subjection to the superior authorities, for there is no authority except by God, the existing authorities stand placed in their relative positions by God. (**Romans 13:1**)
- Therefore he who opposes the authority has taken a stand against the arrangement of God, those who have taken a stand against it will receive judgment to themselves. (**Romans 13:2**)

- **For those ruling are an object of fear, not to the good deed, but to the bad. Do you, then, want to have no fear of the authority? Keep doing good, and you will have praise from it. (Romans 13:3)**
- **For it is God's minister to you for your good. But if you are doing what is bad, be in fear, for it is not without purpose that it bears the sword, for it is God's minister, an avenger to express wrath upon the one practicing what is bad. (Romans 13:4)**
- **There is therefore compelling reason for you people to be in subjection, not only on account of that wrath but also on account of your conscience. (Romans 13:5)**
- **For that is why you are also paying taxes, for they are God's public servants constantly serving this very purpose. (Romans 13:6)**
- **Render to all their dues, to him who calls for the tax, the tax. To him who calls for the tribute, the tribute. To him who calls for fear, such fear. To him who calls for honor, such honor. (Romans 13:7)**
- **In answer Peter and the other apostles said; We must obey God as ruler rather than men. (Acts of Apostles 5:29)**