

## **AA52. Not Being Rebellious towards God's Authority.**

*We are not to rebel against God's authority.*

This precept is derived from His Word (blessed is He):

### **Key New Testament Scriptures**

1 Timothy 1:9

*We are aware that Torah is not for a person who is righteous, but for those who are heedless of Torah and rebellious, ungodly and sinful, wicked and worldly, for people who kill their fathers and mothers, for murderers ..*

### **Additional New Testament Scriptures**

Acts 5:29

Titus 1:6, 10

### **Related New Testament Mitzvot**

OA03 Honoring Our Spiritual Leaders

OA08 Submitting to and Obeying Our Spiritual Leaders

PA03 Submitting to and Obeying the Authorities Placed Over Us

CB08 Wives Submitting to, Honoring, Following, and Obeying Their Husbands

CB11 Children Obeying Their Parents

LA03 Servants Submitting to, Obeying, Respecting, and Serving Their Masters

### **Supportive Tanakh Scriptures**

Numbers 14:9

*Just don't rebel against ADONAI. And don't be afraid of the people living in the land- we'll eat them up! Their defense has been taken away from them, and ADONAI is with us! Don't be afraid of them!*

Deuteronomy 21:18-21

*If a man has a stubborn, rebellious son who will not obey what his father or mother says, and even after they discipline him he still refuses to pay attention to them; then his father and mother are to take hold of him and bring him out to the leaders of his town, at the gate of that place, and say to the leaders of his town, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious, he doesn't pay attention to us, lives wildly, gets drunk.' Then all the men of his town are to stone him to death; in this way you will put an end to such wickedness among you, and all Isra'el will hear about it and be afraid.*

1 Samuel 15:23

*For rebellion is like the sin of sorcery, stubbornness like the crime of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of ADONAI, he too has rejected you as king.*

Psalms 66:7

*With his power he rules forever; his eyes keep watch on the nations. Let no rebel arise to challenge him. (Selah)*

Psalms 106:43

*Many times [God] rescued them, but they kept making plans to rebel. Thus they were brought low by their own wrongdoing.*

Isaiah 30:1

*"Woe to the rebellious children," says ADONAI. "They make plans, but the plans are not mine; they develop alliances, but not from my Spirit, in order to pile sin upon sin."*

Ezekiel 2:8

*But you, human being, hear what I am telling you: don't you be rebellious like that rebellious house. Open your mouth, and eat what I am about to give you.*

**Comment**

It is a surprise to some from reading 1 Samuel 15:23 to learn that “*rebellion is like the sin of sorcery.*” After all, the very founding of our country was achieved by rebelling against British rule, and we never thought of that as sinful. Later we learned from Romans 12:9 that we are to “*recoil from what is evil,*” which sounds very much like “rebellious” against evil, and that is certainly not sinful.

The key to untangling what seem like contradictions is understanding that rebellion by itself is not sinful. Whether or not rebellion is sinful depends on what one is rebelling against. The context of 1 Samuel 15:2-23 is Sha’ul’s rebellion against God by rejecting His Word, and the context of 1 Timothy 1:9 is being “*heedless of Torah*” and being “*sinful, wicked and worldly*” – hence the statement of this *Mitzvah* #AA52: “We are not to rebel against God’s authority.”

**Additional Comment by Daniel C. Juster**

Acts 5:29 tells us: “We must obey God, not men.” Consequently, we must rebel against human authority when it requires that we violate God’s law. The Revolutionary War was such a situation. The argument that was given at the time of the Revolution that the British were in rebellion against God’s natural laws is a hard sell in Britain even to this day.

**Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2**

- A23 Being Subject to Governing Authorities
- F01 Honoring and Revering Our Father and Mother
- W08 Obeying the Mitzvot of Adonai & Yeshua
- Y09 Obeying the Commandments & Teachings of Yeshua