

# ORACLES OF BLESSING

## LAMP LIGHT FIRE HAMMER

### **Having God's oracles is a huge blessing!**

Romans 3:1-2 Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? <sup>2</sup> Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. ESV

Proverbs 8:32-36 [Wisdom calls out,] “Now then, my children, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways. <sup>33</sup> Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not disregard it. <sup>34</sup> Blessed are those who listen to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. <sup>35</sup> For those who find me find life and receive favor from the Lord. <sup>36</sup> But those who fail to find me harm themselves; all who hate me love death.” NIV

### **Two words: blessing and harm**

### **Following God's instruction brings blessing. Not following it brings harm.**

Proverbs 16:20 Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers, and blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord. NIV

### **Harm often results from not following God's instructions.**

1 Samuel 15:10-23 <sup>10</sup> Then the LORD said to Samuel, <sup>11</sup> “I am sorry that I ever made Saul king, for he has not been loyal to me and has refused to obey my command.” Samuel was so deeply moved when he heard this that he cried out to the LORD all night.

<sup>12</sup> Early the next morning Samuel went to find Saul. Someone told him, “Saul went to the town of Carmel to set up a monument to himself; then he went on to Gilgal.”

<sup>13</sup> When Samuel finally found him, Saul greeted him cheerfully. “May the LORD bless you,” he said. “I have carried out the LORD's command!”

<sup>14</sup> “Then what is all the bleating of sheep and goats and the lowing of cattle I hear?” Samuel demanded.

<sup>15</sup> “It's true that the army spared the best of the sheep, goats, and cattle,” Saul admitted. “But they are going to sacrifice them to the LORD your God. We have destroyed everything else.”

<sup>16</sup> Then Samuel said to Saul, “Stop! Listen to what the LORD told me last night!”

“What did he tell you?” Saul asked.

<sup>17</sup> And Samuel told him, “Although you may think little of yourself, are you not the leader of the tribes of Israel? The LORD has anointed you king of Israel. <sup>18</sup> And the LORD sent you on a mission and told you, ‘Go and completely destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, until they are all dead.’ <sup>19</sup> Why haven't you obeyed the LORD? Why did you rush for the plunder and do what was evil in the LORD's sight?”

<sup>20</sup> “But I did obey the LORD,” Saul insisted. “I carried out the mission he gave me. I brought back King Agag, but I destroyed everyone else. <sup>21</sup> Then my troops brought in the best of the sheep, goats, cattle, and plunder to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal.”

<sup>22</sup> But Samuel replied, “What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams. <sup>23</sup> Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols. So because you have rejected the command of the LORD, he has rejected you as king.” NIV

**Blessing comes from obeying God.**

Genesis 22:15-18 Then the angel of the LORD called again to Abraham from heaven. <sup>16</sup>“This is what the LORD says: Because you have obeyed me and have not withheld even your son, your only son, I swear by my own name that <sup>17</sup>I will certainly bless you. I will multiply your descendants beyond number, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will conquer the cities of their enemies. <sup>18</sup>And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all because you have obeyed me.” NIV

**We have the oracles of blessing. Following them brings good!**

Proverbs 8:32-36 [Wisdom calls out,] “Now then, my children, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways. <sup>33</sup>Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not disregard it. <sup>34</sup>Blessed are those who listen to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. <sup>35</sup>For those who find me find life and receive favor from the Lord. <sup>36</sup>But those who fail to find me harm themselves; all who hate me love death.” NIV