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Hebrew Root of Honor

Exodus 20:12

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord (YHWH) your God is giving you.

Deuteronomy 5:16

Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord (YHWH) your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the Lord (YHWH) your God is giving you.

This Hebrew verb, translated as honor in English, literally means “*to be heavy.*”

However, in Exodus 20:12 and Deuteronomy 5:16 it is written in the *piel* form which slightly changes the meaning to “give honor” in the sense of giving weight to another person.

This verb is also written in the imperative form, sort of like a command - give honor or give weight.

In Matthew 15:4, in reference to the commandment found in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5, Yeshua contrasted honor with revile:

Matthew 15:4

For God commanded, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’

The Greek word translated here as revile (*kakologeō*) in English means to “*address with offensive language*” or to “*treat with disrespect.*”

When we respect someone, we often give that person more weight in what is being said verses some random person.

So when we honor our parents, we are to give them more weight in what they are teaching us. The commandment is also attached to a blessing, stating that “*so things may go well for us and we may live long in the land.*”

So how does that work?

Paul expanded on this commandment to give his understanding.

Ephesians 6:1-3

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

Paul says that we are to *obey* our parents. So Paul is directly attaching the honor and weight we are to afford to our parents to obedience and to instruction. Paul further clarifies the context by saying “in the Lord” ...meaning, the idea is that the parents are intended to be following YHWH and His Torah in this commandment, and that is to be the foundation of what the parents are to be teaching their children.

This is more profound and deep than most may consider. As we often say, the physical teaches the spiritual, and the spiritual teaches the physical.

Just as our parents pass on their DNA, the physical instructions for life, the parents are also to pass on their spiritual DNA, the Torah, as the spiritual instructions for life.

When this occurs as intended, it perpetuates the walking out of the Torah with God’s people...thus, it will go well with us in the land...because blessings are afforded to us when we are all following His word.

So this goes into answering the common question, how do I honor or give weight to my parents when they are teaching against the Word of God?

That is certainly a sensitive and difficult issue. We should certainly give weight to our parents in how to walk out the Torah. However, there exists problems when the parents are not in the faith.

Our Father YHWH is the Most High, and all weight and honor in how to walk out the Torah is detailed in His Word.

Our parents are intended to be enablers and examples on how to walk out the Torah, however, if and when they are not, it is always the weightier matter to give honor and respect to our Heavenly Father.

We hope that this teaching has blessed you, and remember, continue to test everything, shalom.

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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