



THE WAYS OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

The ways of God are unsearchable, unwavering, and everlasting. His ways are the manner in which He orchestrates the universe which He created, seen and unseen, in perfect harmony.

Any chaos that has existed in our world since the beginning of time is the result of man's disobedience to God and His ways. When man exchanges his ways for the Ways of God he experiences peace and harmony with God as well as with those around him. He exchanges his disorderly kingdom, influenced by Satan, the world, and his own flesh, with that of the orderly kingdom of the all-knowing, all-loving Infinite God.

THEME SCRIPTURE

'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the LORD. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts' (Isaiah 55:8, 9).

SECTION I – Definitions

1. WRITE your own definition of *ways*. _____

Dictionary Definition

The dictionary defines *way* as a road, street, path, route, course of life, or conduct; also, a method, procedure, process, technique, strategy, approach, scheme, manner, practice, mode, and style of doing things.

Biblical Definitions

The Old Testament Hebrew meaning for *way* is path, direction, a road trodden, a journey, highway, or wayside; it is also a course of conduct, way of thinking, feeling, or leading; course of life, mode of action, habit, moral character.

In the New Testament Greek, it also means a road, implying progress (the route, act, or distance).

Scripture Descriptions

2. READ the following Scriptures that speak of the ways of God. UNDERLINE a word, phrase, or sentence that define God's ways.

Psalm 145:17 *The LORD is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works.*

Isaiah 55:8, 9 *'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the LORD. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.'*

Hosea 14:9 *. . . the ways of the LORD are right; the righteous walk in them . . .*

Habakkuk 3:6 *. . . His ways are everlasting.*

Romans 11:33 *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!*

Revelation 15:3b *. . . Great and marvellous are Your works [deed or labor], Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of saints.*

3. What did you learn about God's ways from these Scriptures? _____

PERSONAL

How has what you have learned impacted your life? _____

SECTION II – God’s Ways Revealed

God’s ways are perfect. His plan for us is everlasting (perpetual, continuing, with no beginning or end). Therefore, total obedience to Him and His ways is essential if man wants to be in harmony with the development of God’s plans. According to God’s ways, as revealed in these Scriptures, partial obedience is disobedience.

Through the following passages, you will see God’s ways as revealed to His anointed King Saul, the first king of Israel, and to God’s anointed prophet, Samuel. READ them and FOCUS on the verses where you see obedience or disobedience to God’s ways and the consequences that followed.

READ I Samuel Chapter 15.

Saul’s Disobedience

READ verses 1 – 9.

1. What did the Lord command King Saul to do through the prophet Samuel (vv. 1-3)? _____

What title did Samuel use for God? _____¹

2. What did Saul do according to God’s command? What did he do in disobedience to God (vv. 4-9)? _____

¹ Lord of Hosts: Lord of Armies.

PERSONAL

Partial obedience is disobedience. How have you willfully only obeyed part of what God commanded through His Word?

Saul Rejected as King

READ verses 10 – 21.

3. Why did God regret² making Saul king (vv. 10, 11)? _____

How did it affect the prophet, Samuel? _____³

4. Samuel went out to meet Saul. What was he told Saul was doing (v. 12)? _____

5. How did Saul greet Samuel (vv. 13-15)? _____

How did the prophet expose Saul's lie? _____

Who did Saul blame for not freely obeying God? What did he say about them? _____

² regret: an expression of sorrow, not an admission of error. In God's foreknowledge, He knows what man will do; nonetheless, it pains God to see man's disobedience come to pass.

³ grieved – Hebrew *charah* to glow: to blaze up with anger; to burn; to be kindled.

6. How did Samuel rebuke Saul for disobeying the Word of the LORD (vv. 16-19)? _____

What did God remind Saul of? _____

God had sent Saul on a mission to utterly destroy all the sinners, the Amalekites.

7. How did King Saul try to justify his disobedience to God (vv. 20, 21)? _____

8. WRITE in detail what the LORD said through Samuel about the following (vv. 22, 23):

Obedience: _____

Rebellion: _____

Stubbornness: _____

Why did God reject Saul from being king? _____

9. What excuse did Saul give because he chose to follow his own way rather than God's way (vv. 24, 25)?

What did the king request of the prophet Samuel? _____

PERSONAL

The consequences of doing things your way rather than God's way are severe. How does this affect the way you will obey God in the future?

The Strength of Israel

READ verses 26 – 31.

10. Since Saul had rejected the Word of the LORD, how did Samuel solidify the Word of the Lord to him? What was Saul's reaction (vv. 26-28)?

11. How did Samuel refer to God? How did he describe Him (v. 29)? _____

12. Ignoring Samuel's profound statement about God, how did Saul still want to be honored (vv. 30, 31)?

What did Samuel do? _____

PERSONAL

How does knowing that *the Strength of Israel* does not lie or relent cause you to fear the LORD⁴?

Samuel's Obedience

READ verses 32 – 35.

13. How did the prophet Samuel fully accomplish what God had commanded King Saul to do (vv. 32, 33)?

How did Samuel curse Agag the king? _____

⁴ fear the LORD: to stand in awe of God (Psalm 33:8). It is to reverence, worship, and obey God; to submit to Him as the One and Only Eternal God who is sovereign Lord of the universe.

14. What was the tragic outcome of Saul's disobedient ways (vv. 34, 35)? _____

King Saul's repeated disobedience to God's way of ruling His people cost him the kingdom. Though it seemed that he truly repented, he continued to disobey God and trust in his own ways until the end of his life. God's plans will never be thwarted.

SECTION III – Scriptural References to God's Ways

1. The following portions of Scripture speak of God's ways and of man's ways. Put an **M** by the references that speak of man's ways. Put a **G** by the references describing God's ways. Put an **L** by the Scriptures that speak of man's longing to do God's ways.

_____	Deuteronomy 32:4	<i>all His ways are justice</i>
_____	Job 34:21	<i>His eyes are upon the ways of man</i>
_____	Psalms 25:4	<i>Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me . . .</i>
_____	Psalms 39:1	<i>I said, I will guard my ways, lest I sin . . .</i>
_____	Psalms 119:3	<i>They also do no iniquity: they walk in His ways.</i>
_____	Psalms 119:5	<i>Oh, that my ways were directed to keep Your statutes!</i>
_____	Psalms 119:59	<i>I thought about my ways, and turned my feet to Your testimonies.</i>
_____	Psalms 139:3	<i>You . . . are acquainted with all my ways.</i>
_____	Psalms 145:17	<i>The LORD is righteous in all His ways . . .</i>
_____	Proverbs 4:18	<i>the path of the just is like the shining sun . . .</i>
_____	Proverbs 4:19	<i>The way of the wicked is like darkness . . .</i>
_____	Proverbs 8:20	<i>I [wisdom] traverse the way of righteousness . . .</i>
_____	Proverbs 10:29	<i>The way of the LORD is strength . . .</i>
_____	Proverbs 13:15	<i>. . . the way of the unfaithful is hard.</i>

_____	Proverbs 14:12	<i>There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.</i>
_____	Proverbs 15:19	<i>The way of the lazy man is like a hedge of thorns . . .</i>
_____	Proverbs 16:2	<i>All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes . . .</i>
_____	Isaiah 42:16	<i>I will bring the blind by a way they did not know . . .</i>
_____	Isaiah 55:8	<i>. . . nor are your ways My ways . . .</i>
_____	Romans 11:33	<i>. . . His ways [are] past finding out!</i>
_____	James 1:8	<i>. . . a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.</i>

Thomas [one of Jesus' disciples] said to Him, 'Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me' (John 14:5, 6). God provided THE WAY through which man may know Him and walk in all His Ways, and that is through a personal relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ.

2. How amazing are the ways of God! WRITE out Romans 11:33. _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

THEME SCRIPTURE

WRITE the THEME SCRIPTURE.

_____ (Isaiah 55:8, 9).

*Oh, the depth of the riches
both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are His judgments and
His Ways past finding out!*

Romans 11:33

NOTES: _____

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All Scripture found in this study is from the New King James Bible unless noted otherwise.

Due to the holy nature of God, the first letter of all references to Him,
His holy name, and His Word have been capitalized.

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