

God and His Commandments

"You shall not kill." Exodus 20:13

"See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand." Deuteronomy 32:39

As already noted in Day Eighteen, throughout Scripture we see God refusing to abide by His own commandments. For example, He said that He abhors the practice of people sacrificing their children,¹ and yet He commanded Abraham to offer Isaac in sacrifice; God commanded that His people not lie, and still He told Samuel to lie regarding his intent to anoint David as king;² God insisted that if we do not forgive, we cannot have a relationship with Him, while warning us that He does not forgive. God kills people, but prohibits our killing others.

Parents understand that their children are obligated to obey their rules, although they may appear arbitrary, unreasonable, and are often broken by the parents. A mother may insist that her daughter not go out after dark by herself, even though the mother does. Fathers and mothers frequently place restrictions on their children that they do not place on themselves.

The Sovereign does not limit His behavior by the commandments He gives His slaves. Never assume that God's standard of justice is defined by what God does. When He gives you commandments, He incurs no obligation to abide by them Himself.

¹ E.g., Lev. 20:2-3 ² I Samuel 16:2