**First, Why Should I Obey God? (13-15)**

1. This ***Week*** Fox News ***Paid*** Dominion = Voting ***Machines*** = $800m ***Defamation*** Lawsuit—***To De-fame***
   1. ***Defamation*** = Libel = “*making a false spoken statement damaging to a person's reputation*”
   2. ***Case*** Not ***Go*** To Court = ***Settled*** 🡪 Fox = ***Apparently*** No Evidence ***of Cheating*** = OR Go ***Trial*** =$800m
   3. ***Wrong*** To Say ***Things***—Spread ***Rumors*** = Not ***True*** = Damage ***Reputation*** = Neg ***Affects*** How Viewed
2. **(13)** Here ***God*** Accuses ***Israel*** of Defamation = ***Words*** Hard ***Against*** ***Me*** = Strong ***Words of*** Accusation
3. **(14-15)** Similar To 4th Disputation = ***Repeated*** For Emphasis = ***OR*** Bec/ Slander ***Gotten*** Worse
   1. De-Faming ***of God*** = Grown ***Louder***—Become ***Bolder*** = More ***Insolent***—Defiant
   2. People ***Respond*** As They Have ***Thru Out*** Book = ***Who? Us?*** = What ***Did*** We Say ***That*** Angers ***God***?
4. **(14)** ***What*** Saying = No ***Profit*** In Obedience 🡪 ***Or Walking*** In Mourning = ***They Are*** Not ***Happy***
   1. Bec/ ***Wicked Go*** Unpunished = ***Rteous*** ***Go*** Unrewarded = ***Vain*** To Serve ***God*** = Pointless
5. **(15)** ***Notice*** Same 2 ***Words***—Ideas = ***Arrogant*** = Not ***Mourning*** = Blessed—Happy = ***Evildoers*** Prosper
   1. Put ***God*** To Test = ***Get Away*** W/ It = ***There Are*** No ***Immediate*** Consequences = ***Grow*** Bold ***In Sin***
   2. Reasoning =***If*** Wicked ***Get Away*** W/ It = ***So*** Can I = ***Wicked*** Go Unpunished 🡪 May As Well Join Them
   3. ***More*** Profitable—***We’re*** Happier = ***Do What*** We Want = ***Rather*** Than ***What*** Right = ***Cast Off*** Obedience
   4. ***We’ll*** Be Happier = If Not ***Obey*** —(Chap 2) ***Divorce*** Wives 🡪 ***More*** Profitable = (Chap 3) ***If*** Stop ***Tithing***
6. Have ***Form*** of Godliness = ***Going*** To Temple = ***Bringing*** Lame ***Sacrifices*** = But ***Deny*** Truth & Power ***of God***
   1. Outward ***Attendance*** = Formal ***Compliance*** = Contradicted ***By Heart*** of Rebellion—Selfishness
   2. Moved ***Away*** From ***God*** = In Hearts & Private Lives = ***While*** Maintaining ***Formal*** Worship ***In Public***
7. ***My Friends*** = We Can ***Lie*** To Selves = ***Fool*** the Community = ***But*** God ***Knows*** = This ***Written*** For Us

**Second, Those Who Fear the Lord (16-17)**

1. ***Truth Is*** = God ***Knows*** = Those ***Who Are*** Truly His = ***Those*** Whose ***Hearts*** Truly & Inwardly ***Belong*** To Him
   1. Described=***Those*** Who ***Fear Him*** 2X **(16)**—1X **(2)** = Means ***Esteem*** Name 🡪 **(17&18)** Who Serve—Obey
2. **(16)** Those ***Who*** Feared ***Lord*** Spoke ***To One Another*** =Ungodly ***De-Faming*** God =***But*** Not ***Only*** Ones ***Talking***
   1. God ***Hears*** Them ***Both*** = KNOWS ***Those*** Who ***Fear Him***—Esteem ***His Name*** =***In Hearts*** Honor & Worship
   2. In Fact = ***Book*** of Remembrance ***Written*** Before God = ***Recording*** Those ***Who*** Love & Worship ***Him***
   3. Rev. 3:4-6—"*Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess* ***his name*** *before my Father and before his angels. He who has an ear, let him hear* ***what the Spirit says*** *to the churches*.”
   4. ***Writing*** To Church = ***Some*** Soiled ***Garments*** = Going ***Way*** of World = ***Encourages*** Faithful ***To Stay*** True
3. **(17) *They*** Shall ***Be Mine*** = Who ***Feared*** Lord—***Esteemed*** Name = ***They*** Will Be ***My Treasured*** Possession
   1. Not ***Vain*** = ***If*** You ***Love*** Lord = ***Seeking*** To Live ***A Life*** = Pleasing ***To Him*** = You ***Shall Be*** His ***On That Day***
   2. Day ***When*** Lamb’s ***Book*** of Life ***Opened*** = Gathers ***His Treasured*** Possession = ***His Peculiar*** People
   3. 1 Cor. 15:58—“*My beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain*.” = Rteous Will Be Rewarded—Wicked Punished
4. Ungodly ***Saying*** Not ***Profitable*** To Serve ***Lord*** = Be Happier ***If*** Not ***Obey*** His Word ***= If We*** Do ***Own Thing***
   1. ***Rteous*** = Those Who Fear Lord—Esteem His Name = Never ***De-Fame*** His Name = ***Serve Him*** As Sons
   2. Not ***Perfect*** People= ***People*** Who ***Love*** God = ***Genuinely*** Seeking ***To Live*** Life ***Pleasing*** To Him
   3. ***When*** Jesus ***= Your*** Great ***Treasure =*** You Are ***His*** ***Treasured*** Possession = ***Serving*** ***Him*** Never ***In Vain***
5. **(17)** God Says = ***Day*** Coming ***When*** Those ***Who*** Served Me ***As Sons*** = Will Be ***Remembered***—Be Mine
   1. ***Mark Of Those*** Who ***Fear***Him***—Esteem*** His Name ***= Serve*** Him***—Obey*** Him ***As*** Sons & Daughters
   2. ***My Friends***=Only ***Certain*** Mark ***of Follower*** = Following 🡪 ***of Perseverance*** =Persevering ***In Life*** of Faith

**Third, Distinction Between Righteous & Wicked (3:18-4:4)**

1. ***If*** Remember = ***Complaint*** = Distinction ***Betw***/ Rteous & Wicked ***Unclear*** = Bec/ ***Wicked*** Happy & Prosper
2. So **(18)** God ***Says*** We Will ***See*** Distinction = ***Betw***/ Wicked = ***Who*** Not ***Serve Me*** 🡪 Rteous ***Who*** Do
3. **(3:1-3)** ***Behold***—Hear Me—Understand = ***Day*** Is Coming = ***When*** Distinction ***Will Be*** Made ***Very*** Clear
   1. God ***Says*** = 2 Kinds ***of People*** In World 🡪 ***Those*** Who ***Serve*** God = ***Those*** Do Not = ***Distinct*** Destinies
4. **(1)** Describes ***Destiny*** of Those ***Who*** Not ***Fear*** God—Not ***Serve*** Him = ***Chosen*** To Serve & Live ***For Selves***
   1. ***More*** At Home = ***Pursuing Their*** Prosperity & Happiness ***W/ World*** = Day ***of Fiery*** Judgment
5. **(2-3)** For Those ***Who*** Fear Lord = ***Persevere*** To End = ***Very*** Different ***Future*** = Distinction =***Crystal*** Clear
   1. **(2)** “But ***for you*** who fear my name ***the sun of righteousness*** shall rise, ***with healing in its wings***.”
   2. Here ***Recognize*** Precious ***Name*** for Jesus = ***Blazing*** Sun of Rtness = ***Rises*** To Heal ***His People***
   3. Dispels ***Darkness*** = Heals & Saves ***His People*** = Leaping ***Like*** Calves = ***Picture*** = Youth—Health—Joy
   4. ***Picture of*** Happiness & Freedom = Rom. 8:21—“*The freedom of the glory of the children of God*.”
6. ***Every*** Discourse ***= Been*** Rebuke ***For Casting Off*** Obedience ***To God’s*** Law ***= Choosing*** Not ***To Serve*** Him
   1. **(2:8)** “*But you have turned aside from the way…You have corrupted the covenant” =* Not***Serve***As Sons
7. **(4)** In Light ***of That*** Day = ***Remember*** the Law = ***Remember*** Faithfulness—Love Me = Serve Me
   1. 1 John 2:15—"*If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him*.” *=* Guard ***Your Heart***
   2. Keep ***Covenant*** = Persevere ***To End*** = Not ***Turn*** ***Aside*** = Fear & Esteem ***My Name*** =Serve Me ***As Sons***
   3. ***God*** Saying ***What*** Jesus ***Said*** = John 14:15—"*If you love me, you will keep my commandments*.”

**Finally, God of Promise (4:5-6)**

1. **(5-6)** Transitional Promise At End of OT = Anticipating That Great Awesome Day When Lord Comes
   1. **(5)** ***Send*** Elijah = Before That Day = **Matt 11:14**—Jesus ***Says*** of John = “*he is Elijah who is to come*
   2. ***Promise*** of Messiah = ***Ultimately*** Points ***To 2nd Coming*** = Judgment & Consummation ***of All Things***
2. Work Backward = God Encouraging Us To Keep Our Eyes On Horizon = Live For The Day = Described **(1-3)**
   1. **(5)** “*The great and awesome day of the LORD*”—**(3)** “*The day when I act, says the LORD of hosts*”
   2. **(1)** “*The day is coming, burning like an oven…The day that is coming shall set them ablaze*”
   3. **(17)** “*The day when I make up my treasured possession*” = When He Shall Say = They Are Mine
   4. Their ***Eyes*** Fixed On ***Temporary*** Prosperity—Pleasures—Happiness = ***God*** Saying = ***Look*** To Horizon
   5. ***God*** Saying ***What*** Paul ***Says***—2 Cor. 4:18—"*Look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal”*
   6. Live ***To Hear*** Jesus Say “***Well Done***” = Good & Faithful ***Servant*** = Served Me ***As*** Sons & Daughters
3. **(16)** Book of Remembrance Written = God Knows His Own = Men Look On Outside 🡪 But God Sees Heart
   1. ***Saul*** Chosen ***Bec***/ Tall—Strong—Handsome = ***Full*** of Self 🡪 ***But*** God ***Chose*** Man ***After*** His Own ***Heart***
   2. 2 Tim. 2:19—"*God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his,"* ***and****, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity*.” = Seal = ***Both*** of These
   3. Lord Knows His Children = His Children Love Him—Serve Him—Obey Him = Depart From Iniquity
   4. 1 Jn. 3:3—"*Everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure*” = This = Heart For God
4. **(16)** “*Those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD heard them*”= Encouraged ***Each*** Other
   1. Devil Loves To Have Us ***Alone*** W/ Our Sin—***In Dark*** = Wants ***To Isolate Us***—So ***We’ll*** Believe ***His Lies***
   2. Encourage One Another 🡪 Stir One Another To Love & Good Deeds = Life of Love & Obedience
5. Finally = God Calling Us To Live By Faith—Not By Sight =Live By Truth of God’s Word = Not By Way It Feels
   1. 2 Cor. 4:17—“*This light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory*”
   2. Wicked ***In Passage*** = Lost Sight of God—Hearts Grown Cold = Decided Vain To Serve God Like Sons
   3. Living ***By Sight*** = Not ***By Faith*** 🡪 Pursuing Selfish Pleasure & Prosperity= Rather Love & Glory of God
6. God = Reminding Us = Not Vain To Serve Him In Faithfulness = Whatever Our Struggle—Temptation
   1. God Calling Us Out of Our Backsliding = Back To Himself = Back To Life of Love & Faithfulness
7. Day ***Is Coming =*** When ***Sun of Rtness*** WillRise ***In Fullness*** of His Glory ***= Will Be*** Great & Awesome ***Day***
   1. Day ***of Blazing Fire*** For Those ***Who*** Thought = ***Vain—Pointless*** To Serve ***Him***
   2. But For Those Who ***Served Him As*** Sons & Daughters 🡪Will Be ***Day of*** Grace—Healing—Great Joy