



Sample Lesson

The Exceeding Sinfulness Of Sin - Teachers Manual

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# 5 Sin Is Rebellion

For the last three lessons we have been studying the words for sin in Exodus 34:7. Thus far we have looked at two of these words.

- "Sin" (Hebrew: *hatta't*)— means "missing the mark"
  - "Iniquity" (Hebrew: *'avon*)— means "crookedness or perversion (twisting)"
- In this lesson we will study the third word for sin in Exodus 34:7:
- "Transgression" (Hebrew: *pesa'* pronounced *peh'-shah*)— means "to revolt or rebel"

In this lesson we will see:

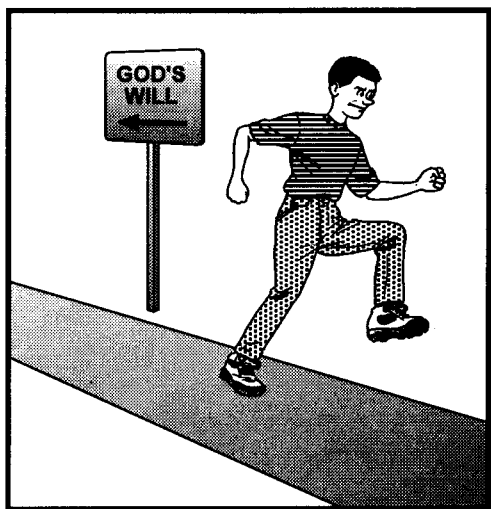
- A definition of rebellion
- The many forms of rebellion
- Biblical illustrations of rebellion
- The serious results of rebellion
- God's grace and our rebellion
- What we must do about our rebellion

## What Is Rebellion?

There are two biblical meanings of the Hebrew word *pesa'*.

- To walk stridently
- To walk contrary to God's will

Therefore, rebellion is walking (striding) contrary to God's will as revealed in His Word.



# The Ten-Headed Monster Of Rebellion

Rebellion takes many forms. Look up the verses listed below and find ten things men did that God called rebellion. Label each head of the "rebellion monster" with one of the forms of rebellion. As you list the forms of rebellion, ask yourself, "How are we guilty of this same type of rebellion today?"



2 Kings 3:5 Refusing to pay the tribute imposed by Omri  
(refusing to pay what we are supposed to pay)



1 Samuel 24:11; 2 Kings 8:20 Refusing to submit to authority



Isaiah 59:13; Amos 2:4 Lying



Jeremiah 2:8 Walking after things that do not profit



Psalms 36:1 Lack of fear of the Lord



Proverbs 12:13 Speaking against authorities



Proverbs 28:24 Robbing parents



Amos 5:12 (3 forms in this verse)

- Making fun of the godly
- Dishonesty
- Favoritism

## Biblical Illustrations Of Rebellion

|                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| <u>Adam</u>              | (Job 31:33)     |
| <u>Joseph's brothers</u> | (Genesis 50:17) |
| <u>Judah</u>             | (Amos 2:4)      |

We learn from these examples that, in reality, all sin is rebellion against God. Behind every sin is the attitude, "I don't care what God says—if I want to do it, I will."

## The Serious Results Of Rebellion

### Two Mistakes We Make Concerning Our Sin

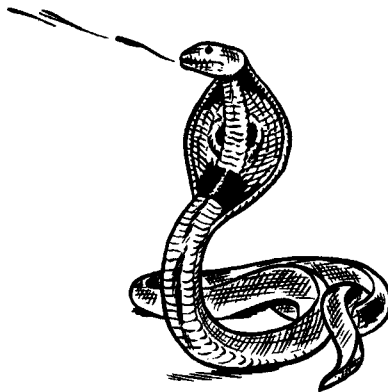
- We fail to see the exceeding sinfulness of our sins (Romans 7:13).
- We fail to realize how certain and how awful is God's punishment for sin.

### Three Serious Consequences Of Sin

- Sin leads to captivity (Lamentations 1:5).



● Rebellion blinds (Job 13:23).



● Rebellion brings danger of hell fire (Isaiah 66:24).



## God's Grace And Our Rebellion

| GOD'S GRACE  | WHAT WE MUST DO   |
|--|---|
| Christ <u>died</u> for our rebellion (Isaiah 53:5, 8).           | <u>Trust</u> Christ as our Savior.                                      |
| God will <u>forgive</u> all who trust in Christ (Jeremiah 33:8). | <u>Acknowledge</u> and <u>confess</u> our rebellion (Psalm 32:5; 51:3). |
|  | <u>Repent</u> and <u>turn</u> from our sins (Ezekiel 18:30).            |

## 5 Sin Is Rebellion

In the last three lessons we have been defining sin. Thus far we have seen two definitions of sin from **Exodus 34:7**. What are they?

- Sin is "missing the mark" (the word "sin" in **verse 7**).
- Sin is "crookedness" or "perversion" (the word "iniquity" in **verse 7**).

In this lesson we come to the word "transgression" in this same verse. It translates the Hebrew word *pesa'* (peh'-shah), which means to revolt or rebel. Therefore, sin is **rebellion against God**.

The word *pesa'* is found 93 times in the Old Testament. It is translated by the following words.

- "Transgression(s)" (84 times)
- "Trespass" (5 times)
- "Sin(s)" (3 times)
- "Rebellion" (1 time)

A study of the verses in which *pesa'* is found teaches us several things about sin as "rebellion."

### What Is Rebellion?

#### To Walk Stridently

The Hebrew word for rebellion comes from a root word that literally means to stride or walk away. It is found in **Isaiah 27:4**:

*"Fury is not in me: who would set the briers and thorns against me in battle? I would go through them, I would burn them together."*

The word translated "go" is the Hebrew root word from which "rebellion" comes. The picture is that of a furious man, in his pride and anger, taking long, striding steps in the opposite direction of everyone else.

#### To Walk Contrary To God's Will

Another form of the same word is found in **1 Samuel 20:3**: *"And David swore moreover, and said, Thy father certainly knoweth that I have found grace in thine eyes; and he saith, Let not Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved: but truly as the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, there is but a step between me and death."* Here the word is translated "step." Thus, we see that rebellion is **walking**

**contrary to God's will.** Some Hebrew scholars say that this word means to break away from authority.

We could summarize the meaning of rebellion as follows:  
**rebellion is walking (striding) contrary to God's will as revealed in His Word.**

## The Many Forms Of Rebellion

Rebellion takes many forms. A study of the verses listed in the student's lesson will show us ten different ways in which rebellion raises its ugly head. (Divide the teens into small groups and give them about ten minutes to work on "The Ten-Headed Monster of Rebellion" in their student's books. Then let them share their answers. Examples are given of each of the ten items listed below to show how we can exhibit these forms of rebellion in our lives.)

- ◆ Refusing to pay the tribute imposed by Omri (**2 Kings 3:5**) — refusing to pay our tithes and offerings to the Lord; not paying our bills; cheating on our taxes
- ◆ Refusing to submit to authority (**1 Samuel 24:11; 2 Kings 8:20**) — disobeying the rules of our parents, our school, our place of employment or our government
- ◆ Lying (**Isaiah 59:13; Amos 2:4**) — any falsehood, whether cheating, stretching the truth, deception or deliberate, bald-faced lies
- ◆ Walking after things that do not profit (**Jeremiah 2:8**) — wasting our time, talents and money on things that count only for this earth and have no lasting value; neglecting the things of the Lord for the things of the world; staying out of church to go to a ballgame, watch a TV program or go on a date; neglecting devotions because we are so busy with our lives, work and play
- ◆ Lack of fear of the Lord (**Psalms 36:1**) — skipping church; living in known sin and not caring; flaunting our sin in front of others; knowing we are not right with God and doing nothing about it
- ◆ Speaking against authorities (**Proverbs 12:13**) — harsh, critical words against those who are over us in authority; talking back to our parents, teachers and employers; making fun of (with the intent to hurt) our parents, teachers or bosses
- ◆ Robbing parents (**Proverbs 28:24**) — taking advantage of our parents; stealing from them by taking money from their purse or wallet without their permission; robbing our parents of their health and strength by our rebellion against their rules and wishes; grieving their hearts and worrying them by our wayward lives
- ◆ Making fun of the godly (**Amos 5:12**) — telling lies on godly youth to try to make them look less godly; laughing at the way they dress or talk; making fun of their standards which may be stricter than ours



◆ Dishonesty (**Amos 5:12**) — any form of lying, cheating, stealing, exaggerating or pretense

◆ Favoritism (**Amos 5:12**) — refusing to include certain people in our clique or special group; laughing at and giving little time to those who can't dress by our standards or who don't look the best; ignoring those who have physical or financial problems

After studying the different forms in which rebellion can be manifest, are we guilty? Do any of these hit close to home with us?

## **Biblical Illustrations Of Rebellion**

We also learn much about rebellion by looking at those who rebelled in the Bible.

### **Adam (Job 31:33)**

Job refers to Adam covering his "transgressions" (rebellion). Thus, in the mind of Job, at least, Adam's sin in the Garden of Eden was rebellion. How did Adam express his rebellion? Through both disbelief in God's warning ("*thou shalt surely die*") and disobedience to God's command.

That being true, what can we conclude about ourselves when we disobey God's strict commands? We are rebels!

**Discuss:** What are some of God's commands that we lightly disobey? Some examples would include: "*not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together*" (**Hebrews 10:25**); "*honor thy father and thy mother*" (**Exodus 20:12**); "*thou shalt not steal*" (**Exodus 20:15**); "*thou shalt not covet*" (**Exodus 20:17**).

### **Joseph's Brothers (Genesis 50:17)**

Joseph's brothers admitted their guilt for having sold him into slavery and for deceiving their father. Twice in this verse they call their sin a "trespass" (literally "rebellion"). In their story we see a host of sins that God calls rebellion.

- Jealousy (They were jealous of Joseph's favored position with their father.)
- Greed (They sold Joseph for silver.)
- Lying and deceiving (They told their father that Joseph had been killed.)
- Dishonoring their brother (They sold him into slavery.)

We don't think of some of these sins as "rebellion." When we are jealous of each other or when we tell our parents a lie, we don't think of ourselves as rebelling against God. But we are! For all of these things are against the direct command of God. Somehow sin looks worse when others do it than when we do it.

## Judah (Amos 2:4)

Here again rebellion ("transgressions") is described as disobeying God's Word ("despised" means to reject). When we go to church or attend youth meetings or hear the Bible taught in a Christian school, and yet we don't practice it, we are rejecting or despising God's Word. God considers this to be rebellion against Him.

What do we learn from all of this? That in reality ***all sin is rebellion against God***. Behind every sin is the attitude, "I don't care what God says — if I want to do it, I will."

## The Serious Results Of Rebellion

Sin is no laughing matter. Often we make two mistakes regarding sin.

★ We fail to see the greatness of our sins. God calls them rebellion, but we call them mistakes or faults.

★ We don't think God will actually chasten us for these "minor slip-ups." And if we do think that chastening might come, we don't actually think it will be all that bad.

Let's look at these two problems for a moment.

## We Fail To See The Exceeding Sinfulness Of Our Sins

So often, rebellious youth are portrayed as heroes. It is a sad commentary on our culture that lawbreakers, drug users or the teen who gets drunk over the weekend is looked upon by society as a hero.

Murderers are often treated as celebrities while the victim is forgotten. Drug users are pitied while their sins are glossed over. We look at people dying of AIDS contracted by immorality with pity. Seldom is their sin addressed. When great athletes are caught gambling, the media tends to focus on their glorious achievements and gloss over their sins as "mistakes." They are certainly not called sins, nor are they condemned by the media.

**Discuss:** How do unbelievers gloss over the following sins? (Suggested answers are in parentheses.)

- Drunkenness ("Alcoholism is a disease.")
- Abortion ("It's the woman's right to choose.")
- Adultery ("It was a mistake. It was only an affair. He or she was the victim of circumstances.")
- Homosexuality ("It's an alternate lifestyle.")

**Romans 7:13** refers to sin as "*exceeding sinful*." Sin is disgusting to God. It is repugnant, sickening and hateful. It is against everything that God is. Sin is more disgusting to God than a sewer is to a man. What we call "little sins" or "mistakes" are enough to make God vomit. **Revelation 3:16** says that God will "spew" (vomit) out of His mouth those who are lukewarm for the Lord.

Do we see our little "white" sins as rebellion against a holy God? That's how He sees them!

## **We Fail To Realize How Certain And How Awful Is God's Punishment For Sin**

God does not take sin lightly. He sees it as rebellion against Him and warns us that serious consequences follow sin. Note the following consequences of our sin.

### **Sin Leads To Captivity (Lamentations 1:5)**

Jeremiah laments the awful consequences of Judah's rebellion. In this case the punishment is called "affliction" and "captivity." Because Judah rebelled against God's will and plan for their lives, they were taken into captivity.

How does that apply to us today? When we rebel against God's plan for our lives, when we refuse to submit to His Word, when we allow sin to come into our lives — He will allow those sins to capture our minds and hearts to such a degree that we are helpless to quit. Esau was an illustration of this. He became so bitter at Jacob that even when he wanted to repent, he couldn't (**Hebrews 12:16-17**).

#### ***Active Learning***

Ask a volunteer to step forward. Have him hold one end of a long rope representing his choice to sin. Slowly wind the rope around him and tell the rest of the teens that each revolution is another choice to do that sin. Show that repeated sin eventually binds a person.

### **Rebellion Blinds (Job 13:23)**

Job begs God to show him his transgression ("rebellion"). Why? Because rebellion cannot be seen by those who are guilty of it. Think of it: when we have rebellion in our hearts against our parents or against the Lord, we often don't even realize it.

#### ***Active Learning***

Take a roll of gauze and slowly repeat the rope illustration, but wrap the gauze around the person's eyes and head instead of using the rope. Show that repeated sin blinds a person. With each revolution the person can see less clearly, until finally he is blind.

To add to this illustration, after the person is completely blindfolded, place crackers on the floor all around him. Ask him to walk

in a particular direction. Each cracker represents a life-threatening sin. Each time he steps on one, he has just destroyed his health, his family or himself. Tell the teens that when we are blinded by sin, we cannot see the potholes of life.

**Jeremiah 17:9** says that our hearts deceive us. We can get angry with our parents and tell them off; we can talk back to our teachers; we can refuse to obey the will of God in our lives — and all the time convince ourselves that we are not guilty.

### **Rebellion Brings Danger Of Hell Fire (Isaiah 66:24)**

Sin is what sends men to hell. And what sins — great sins? Murder? Drunkenness? Adultery? No! The simple sin of unbelief condemns men to hell. Note **John 3:18**. Why are men condemned to hell? Because they don't believe in Jesus Christ.

Have you trusted Christ as your Savior? If not, you stand condemned to burn in everlasting fire. In God's eyes you are a rebel deserving of eternal punishment.

## **God's Grace And Our Rebellion**

God does not want us to be blind, condemned and helpless in our sins. Thus, He has made a way out. The following verses tell us a wonderful story.

### **Christ Died For Our Rebellion (Isaiah 53:5, 8)**

As much as God hates our rebellious sin, He loves *us!* He sent His Son to this earth to bear our "transgressions" (rebellious sins). Jesus took our rebellion and sin upon Himself on the cross, and there He suffered all the wrath of God for our sins.

### **He Will Forgive All Who Trust In Him (Jeremiah 33:8)**

Because Christ paid for our sins, God will forgive all who will accept Christ. Once we accept Him as our Savior, He has promised to do two wonderful things to our rebellion.

- He will remove it as far as the east is from the west (**Psalm 103:12**).
- He will blot out our sins (**Isaiah 43:25**).

## What We Must Do

■ First, if we are unsaved, we must trust Christ as our Savior. The moment we do that, our sins are blotted out; and we are forgiven.

■ Second, if we are saved but find that we have rebellion and sin in our lives, we need to do two things.

### Acknowledge And Confess Our Rebellion (Psalm 32:5; 51:3)

Have you recognized any sin and rebellion in your life today? Then you need to acknowledge it before God and confess to Him that you are guilty. Name the sins and tell Him what you have done, just as David did in these verses.

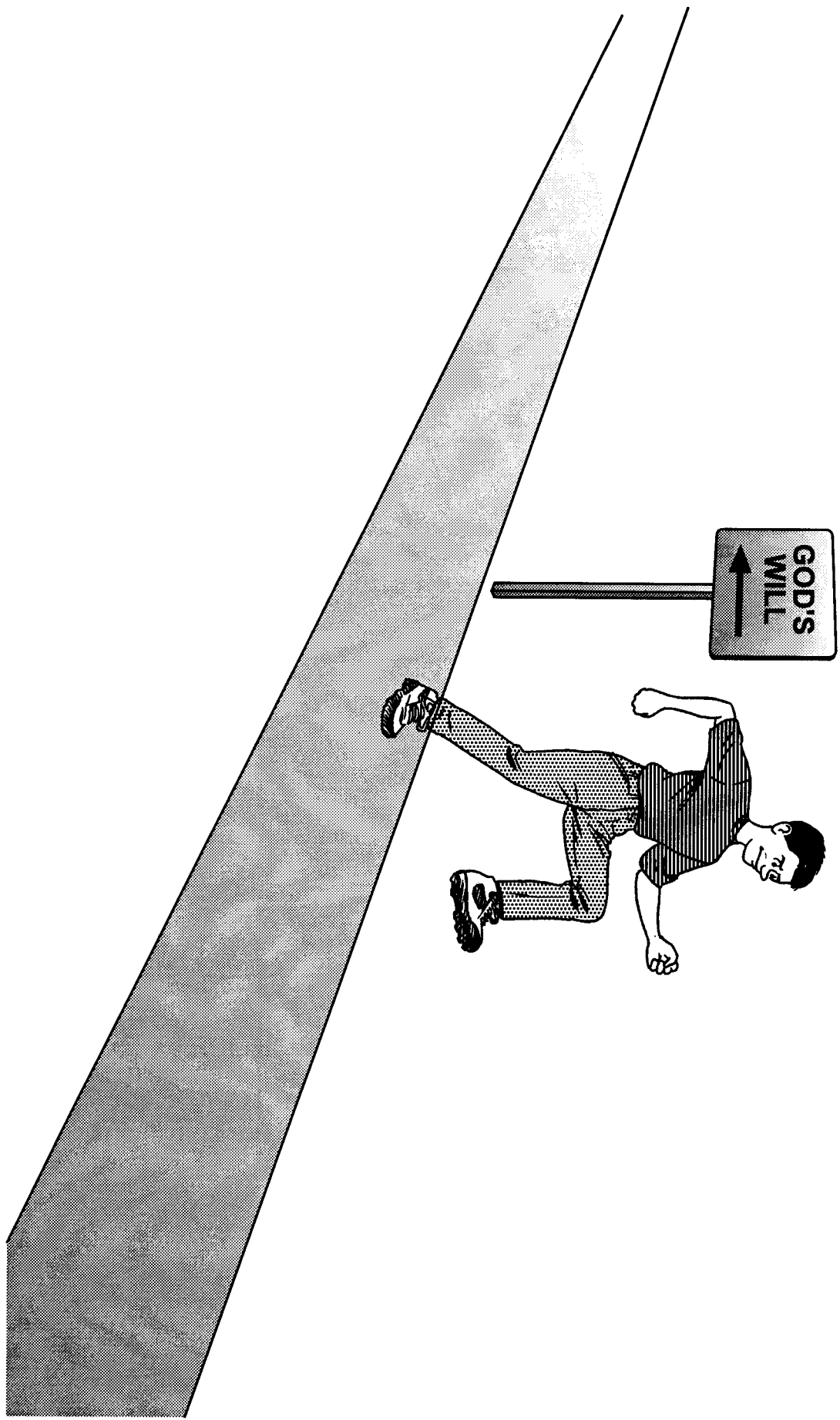
### Repent And Turn From Our Sins (Ezekiel 18:30)

It is not enough to confess a sin; we must be willing to *stop* it immediately. Turning from our sin means to quit it *now!* Are you willing to do that? Will you confess your sins to God right now? Then will you stop committing those sins?

### QUIZ ANSWERS

1. (1) Transgression  
(2) Sin  
(3) Iniquity
2. (1) Captivity  
(2) Blinds  
(3) Hell fire
3. (1) Joseph's brothers  
(2) Adam  
(3) Judah
4. (1) Lack of fear of the Lord  
(2) Speaking against authorities  
(3) Robbing parents  
(4) Lying  
(5) Walking after things that do not profit

**Rebellion is walking contrary to God's will  
as revealed in God's Word.**



## LESSON 5 QUIZ — SIN IS REBELLION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Level \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_

Maximum Score: 6 points for Level 1 (questions marked by \*); 14 points for Level 2

(3) \*1. Write in the English word for sin from Exodus 34:7 that corresponds to each of the following definitions.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_: revolt or rebellion

(2) \_\_\_\_\_: missing the mark

(3) \_\_\_\_\_: crookedness, perversion or twisting

(3) \*2. Complete the following three consequences of sin.

(1) Sin leads to \_\_\_\_\_.

(2) Rebellion \_\_\_\_\_.

(3) Rebellion brings danger of \_\_\_\_\_.

(3) 3. What biblical illustrations of rebellion are found in the following verses?

(1) Genesis 50:17 \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Job 31:33 \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Amos 2:4 \_\_\_\_\_

(5) 4. What form of rebellion is found in the following verses?

(1) Psalm 36:1 \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Proverbs 12:13 \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Proverbs 28:24 \_\_\_\_\_

(4) Isaiah 59:13; Amos 2:4 \_\_\_\_\_

(5) Jeremiah 2:8 \_\_\_\_\_