

Honor thy father and mother – a critique of “the only commandment with a promise”

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Introduction

Exo 20:12

Honour (כָּבֵד *kab-Bed* אֶתְּ *'et-*)^a thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which YHVH thy Elohim giveth thee.

I used to think this way, or at least I would regurgitate what others said about this without giving it much thought. This article will attempt to explain what this is not very insightful.

ToDo expand on these thoughts...

1. This commandment is (sort of) in between the 10 commandments if you broke them down into two categories where the first is man dealing with God and the second is man dealing with each other.
2. Give a reasonable, i.e. P’shat level, understanding of what this means. E.g. the older generation of people being cared for in the latter years. Discuss the idea there is an implication that one’s father and mother are doing something that is honorable, and therefore I’m only duty bound to honor that. If I half heartedly do the other nine commandments than at least I will remain on the land. Go through the list of those none commandments and you will realize who foolish that is.
3. In “Marsings-Rules-and-Key-Definitions” I put great emphasis on
 - a. making a strong connection with the words contracts and covenant
 - b. the great importance of defining the relationship with YHVH and that it is defined / described as contractual

^a See [Word-Study-H2388-chazaq-harden-H7185-qasha-and-H3515-kabed](#), article #???: “[Word-Study-G5092-timee-honour-price](#)”, article #843; “[The-Essence-of-Rebuke](#)”, article #???

4. One of the hardest things “Adam-kind” has trouble with is passing this covenant from people to people and this includes generation to generation (which is inherently what this commandment is talking about). Reference the “(so called) Greatest Generation”.
5. The foolishness of this teaching/observation that this commandment is “the only commandment with a promise” can be shown by asking this question...if my goal is to have “my days be long upon the land which YHVH thy Elohim giveth thee” then does that imply that as long as I do that commandment well, I will stay on the land
6. Comment on the irony that within a mere 14 months or so, this generation that YHVH is speaking to does not attain the initial promise of the land of the Canaanites.
7. Is there an example in scripture where God judged Israel for not following this commandment? If there are none, or very few, then maybe we need to consider a deeper meaning.
8. Maybe this is a stretch, but could “Honour thy father and thy mother” also be understood to mean not just the immediate prior generation, but the generation that consisted of the patriarchs.

e-Sword commentary

A commandment with a promise.

This promise of lengthened days also applies to perfect and just weights see Deu 25:15.

Deu 25:15-16

¹⁵ *But* thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have: that thy days may be lengthened in the land which YHVH thy Elohim giveth thee. ¹⁶ For all that do such things, *and* all that do unrighteously, *are* an abomination unto YHVH thy Elohim.

Deu 25:17 has a standalone Aleph Tav

¹⁷ Remember אָחַי what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt;

Is there a relationship here? How about, if you don't remember the אָחַי then YHVH will use the likes of the Amalek to kick them off the land

Lev 19:3 – a Comparison

³ Ye shall fear (*yare* ^{H3372}) every man his mother, and his father, and keep my sabbaths: I am YHVH thy Elohim.

Notice how the order is reversed...father and mother (Exo 20:12) and mother and father Lev 19:3.