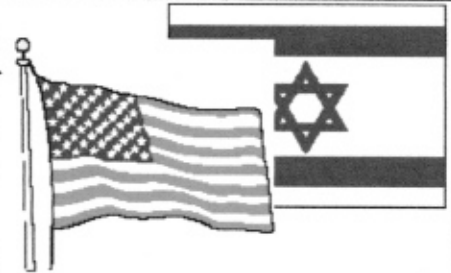


חֵפֶשׁ

Freedom

Throughout the history of mankind, there have been people who have ruled over other people. In the history of Israel, Egypt ruled over us for 430 years. While Egyptian rule began well, in the end we were enslaved and our freedom to worship God was taken away.



The same kind of thing occurred when England would not allow our forefathers to worship as they desired. The pilgrims left that tyrannical rule and sought to live in a place where they could worship God as they believed He had instructed them to worship Him. They founded the 13 colonies which eventually became the United State of America.

For some people, these two events have raised questions in their minds. Is it right to "rebel" against the established authority in order to gain one's freedom? Did Israel fail to submit to authority when she obeyed God and left Egypt? Was the founding of the United States of America wrong because it was done out of a spirit of "rebellion?"

Such questions arise because the whole matter of "freedom" is misunderstood. Freedom is not the ability to do whatever one wants: in fact, that is slavery. Freedom is the ability to do what God wants—that is true freedom.

Here is the basic biblical principle: whenever those in authority over us require us to do what God has clearly forbidden, or when those in authority over us keep us from doing what God has clearly commanded, then we must obey God rather than man, and we must be willing to do whatever we can to gain this kind of "freedom."

Both in Israel as well as in the USA we celebrate "Independence Day." In Israel we call this *Yom HaAtz-ma-ut* (יּוֹם הַתְּעִמָּאוּת) and in America we celebrate the 4th of July, "Independence Day." In each of these countries, the flag that we raise is a symbol of this freedom: the Israeli Flag is patterned after the Tallit, a symbol of our prayers to HaShem, and the American Flag symbolizes the fifty states in a field of blue, which stands for the sky (the fifty states exists by the Power of Heaven), together with stripes of red and white symbolizing the blood of our fallen heroes who died to gain this freedom.

Thus, in all situations, true freedom is always based upon a genuine desire to obey and worship God. That is why it is so important to maintain our freedom: not so that we can do whatever we want, but in order to worship and serve God as He has directed us to. Therefore, true freedom flows from a heart to obey God which includes a spirit of submission to authority, beginning first and foremost with a submission to God. Whenever a nation fails to recognize God as the giver of freedom, that nation is on the path toward tyranny rather than freedom.

Freedom

True Freedom is doing what God has commanded us to do

U J X D K Q O S U Z Q L L I B E R T Y U K I E D T
O D E S N N A T O D A C W C R L J U R R A K N O H
K Y S N C M W Y S W L U Z T U A M Z T A A H M O Y
K P E L O W O A S Y U Y V K J B U C I V H J U Q L
I R J P A I Q D R E V O L U T I O N A R Y W A R J
N Y S E P V S T E P A S S E M B L Y I Z R I V S K
D T F G K U E S C E I N O I T A T N E S E R P E R
E I K N E Y A R I I R H X W C G O V E R N M E N T
P R R I C N X N Y M T F S X A A Q F A O F Z C D M
E O K K N N G J J V B I P R S N G D X R J X C J F
N H A G E A A B K S N U Z R O Q V C L U X T W N Q
D T A G I R L R O S R V S E P W L U S R X T O E R
E U D R D Y F H W Q K U V W N C W T F T J A H Q E
N A K Q E T I T P R E S P O N S I B I L I T Y I V
C J Q X B M F A R L X K G N N C Q T H T V Q W T A
E Y S D O Y R P H R U T K Q E H P I H S R E N W O
I V Z C N X U Z L V K O S J P H N P B W H L E L G

FREEDOM

INDEPENDENCE

OBEDIENCE

YOM HAATZMAUT

SUBMISSION

AUTHORITY

LIBERTY

JUSTICE

SLAVERY

REVOLUTIONARY WAR

TYRANNY

FLAG

WORSHIP

GOVERNMENT

CITIZEN

OWNERSHIP

KING

ASSEMBLY

REPRESENTATION

LAWS

RESPONSIBILITY





God looks at a person's heart to see what the person is really like. That's why He chose David over Jesse's other sons. Can you find the hidden items in the picture? Find David's father and seven brothers, angry Saul, three of David's sheep, a bear, a lion, and the horn of oil Samuel used to anoint David.

