

Revelation – Obedience – Confirmation – Blessing

A 4-step pattern that occurs throughout the scriptures is worth noting, because knowing our Father in heaven's ways helps us know Him more intimately. The 4 steps are these:

1. Revelation from God
2. Obedience on the part of one to whom revelation is given
3. Confirmation by God for the correctness of the obedience
4. Blessing, also by God...usually an outcome

Next revelation...and the sequence continues.

Let's look at some examples of the pattern:

Noah: Genesis 6 –

¹³ So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. ¹⁴ So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. ¹⁵ This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high. ¹⁶ Make a roof for it, leaving below the roof an opening one cubit high all around. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. ¹⁷ I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. ¹⁸ But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹ You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. ²⁰ Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. ²¹ You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them."

That is the complete revelation given to Noah by God. Now what happens next?

²² Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

There is the step of obedience that is required following a direct revelation.

Confirmation follows obedience:

Genesis 7:

¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. ¹² And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. ¹³ On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark. ¹⁴ They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings. ¹⁵ Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them

came to Noah and entered the ark. ¹⁶ The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah.

In the last 6 words of verse 16, there is a kind of blessing that followed the confirmation:

Then the LORD shut him in.

The final blessing occurs in Genesis 8 & 9:

¹³ By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. ¹⁴ By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry.

¹⁵ Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶ "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. ¹⁷ Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it."

¹⁸ So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. ¹⁹ All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—everything that moves on land—came out of the ark, one kind after another.

²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. ²¹ The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

²² "As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat,
summer and winter,
day and night
will never cease."

¹ Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. ² The fear and dread of you will fall on all the beasts of the earth, and on all the birds in the sky, on every creature that moves along the ground, and on all the fish in the sea; they are given into your hands. ³ Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.

Genesis 12; the earliest account of Abram who became Abraham, illustrates God's timing between the steps we take and the steps He takes:

¹ The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

² "I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,

and you will be a blessing.
³ I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

(REVELATION)

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; **(OBEDIENCE)**

and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. ⁵ He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

⁶ Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” **(CONFIRMATION)**

Abraham had many revelations – actually visitations – from the Lord, which required his obedience, and each was followed by confirmation and blessing, but the greatest was the birth of Isaac, the Father of Jacob who became Israel. The greatest example in the OT of the principle we’re studying is The revelation God gave Abraham in **Genesis 22:2**

“Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”

³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then *we* will come back to you.”

⁶ Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, ⁷ Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?”

“Yes, my son?” Abraham replied.

“The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

⁸ Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.

⁹ When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

(Ultimate OBEDIENCE) ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

¹² “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”

¹³ Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns.

(CONFIRMATION) He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”

¹⁵ The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶ and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.” **(BLESSING . . . which took centuries beyond Abraham’s own lifetime to fulfill)**

Moses –

In Exodus 3, Moses was given his revelation directly from God

Exodus 3:9-10

⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.” **(REVELATION)**

Confirmation happens in **Chapter 4**, along with a look into God’s heart when His word is doubted:

¹ Moses answered, “What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, ‘The LORD did not appear to you’?”

² Then the LORD said to him, “What is that in your hand?”

“A staff,” he replied.

³ The LORD said, “Throw it on the ground.”

Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. ⁴ Then the LORD said to him, “Reach out your hand and take it by the tail.” So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand. ⁵ “This,” said the LORD, “is so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has appeared to you.”

⁶ Then the LORD said, “Put your hand inside your cloak.” So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, the skin was leprous—it had become as white as snow.

⁷ “Now put it back into your cloak,” he said. So Moses put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored, like the rest of his flesh.

⁸ Then the LORD said, “If they do not believe you or pay attention to the first sign, they may believe the second. ⁹ But if they do not believe these two signs or listen to you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will become blood on the ground.”

¹⁰ Moses said to the LORD, “Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.”

¹¹ The LORD said to him, “Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD? ¹² Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.”

¹³ But Moses said, “Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else.”

¹⁴ Then the LORD’s anger burned against Moses and he said, “What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and he will be glad to see you. ¹⁵ You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do. ¹⁶ He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him. ¹⁷ But take this staff in your hand so you can perform the signs with it.”

Blessing begins in Genesis 12:

³¹ During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the LORD as you have requested. ³² Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me.”

The Blessing concludes in Deuteronomy 34:

¹ Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the LORD showed him the whole land—from Gilead to Dan, ² all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea, ³ the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as Zoar. ⁴ Then the LORD said to him, “This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it.”

⁵ And Moses the servant of the LORD died there in Moab, as the LORD had said. ⁶ He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is.

King David:

Many examples could be given, but a really clear one is the first 4 verses of

2 Samuel 2:

¹ In the course of time, David inquired of the LORD. “Shall I go up to one of the towns of Judah?” he asked.

The LORD said, “Go up.”

David asked, “Where shall I go?”

“To Hebron,” the LORD answered.

² So David went up there with his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. ³ David also took the men who were with him, each with his family, and they settled in Hebron and its towns. ⁴ Then the men of Judah came to Hebron, and there they anointed David king over the tribe of Judah.

The blessing, which followed the above examples of Revelation, Obedience and Confirmation, came later, in **2 Samuel 7:**

⁸ “Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. ⁹ I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. ¹⁰ And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹ and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“‘The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: ¹² When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. ¹⁵ But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.’”

Finally, we come to Jesus. His whole life was directed by **revelation**, which was followed by **obedience** . . .

John 5:19-20

"Verily, verily, I am saying to you, The Son can not be doing anything of Himself if it is not what He should be observing the Father doing, for whatever He may be doing, this the Son also is doing likewise.

20 For the Father is fond of the Son and is showing Him all that He is doing.

Confirmation came in the form of miracles performed wherever Jesus went. The climax, to me was the revelation Jesus received on the Mount of Transfiguration, where He consulted with Moses and Elijah:

Mark 9:2-7:

Jesus is taking aside Peter and James and John and is bringing them up into a very high mountain, privately, alone. And He was transformed in front of them.

3 And His garments became glistening, very white, as snow, such as no fuller on earth is able thus to whiten.

4 And Elijah, together with Moses, was seen by them, and they were conferring with Jesus.

5 And answering, Peter is saying to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is ideal for us to be here! And we should be making three tabernacles: for Thee one, and for Moses

one, and for Elijah one."

6 For he was not aware what he may answer, for they became terrified.

7 And there came a cloud overshadowing them. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My Son, the Beloved. Hear Him!"

We don't know what was said between Jesus, Moses and Elijah. What we do know is that after this, Jesus referred to his resurrection from the dead for the first time:

9 And at their descending from the mountain, He cautions them that they should be relating to no one what they perceived, except whenever the Son of Mankind may be rising from among the dead.

10 And they hold the word, discussing with themselves what is the rising from among the dead.

So, presumably, Jesus received revelation during that event, and in **John 18:1**, Jesus begins to fulfill the final acts of obedience to the revelation:

Jesus came out with His disciples to the other side of the Kedron winter brook, where there was a garden, into which He entered, He and His disciples.

Jesus' ordeal of obedience is prolonged and horrific, ending in His death by crucifixion.

Confirmation occurs at His resurrection on the third day:

Luke 24:

1 Now in the early days of one of the sabbaths, they, and certain others together with them, came to the tomb, bringing the spices which they make ready.

2 Now they found the stone rolled away from the tomb.

3 Now, entering also, they found not the body of the Lord Jesus.

4 And it occurred, at their being perplexed concerning this, lo! two men stand by them in flashing attire.

5 Now at their becoming affrighted and inclining their faces to the earth, they say to them, "Why are you seeking the living with the dead?"

6 He is not here, but was raised. Be reminded how He speaks to you, being still in Galilee,

7 saying that 'The Son of Mankind must be given up into the hands of men, sinners, and be crucified, and the third day rise.'"

8 And they are reminded of His declarations.

9 And, returning from the tomb, they report all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.

The Blessing came, at least in part, upon Jesus' ascension into heaven:

Mark 16:

19 The Lord, indeed, then, after speaking with them, was taken up into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.

Personally, I believe the greater blessing is yet to occur, when the Lord descends from Heaven, in glory and power, according to Paul's revelation in

1 Corinthians 15:

51 Lo! a secret to you am I telling! We all, indeed, shall not be put to repose, yet we all shall be changed,

52 in an instant, in the twinkle of an eye, at the last trump. For He will be trumpeting, and the dead will be roused incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal put on immortality.

So begins the Day of the Lord that ushers in the Kingdom of the Heavens that Jesus heralded when he walked the Earth.

We could hardly conclude this examination of such an important principle without looking at the Apostle Paul. He received truly unique revelations directly from Christ Himself:

Galatians 1:

11 For I am making known to you, brethren, as to the evangel which is being brought by me, that it is not in accord with man.

12 For neither did I accept it from a man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

Paul's life, from the time he was accosted by the Lord on the road to Damascus, until his life ended, was full of **revelation**, which was met with total **obedience** that resulted in tremendous suffering yet demonstrating **confirmation** by tremendous power:

Colossians 1:

24 I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for you, and am filling up in my flesh, in His stead, the deficiencies of the afflictions of Christ, for His body, which is the ecclesia
25 of which I became a dispenser, in accord with the administration of God, which is granted to me for you, to complete the word of God --

26 the secret which has been concealed from the eons and from the generations, yet now was made manifest to His saints,

27 to whom God wills to make known what are the glorious riches of this secret among the nations, which is: Christ among you, the expectation of glory --

28 Whom we are announcing, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we should be presenting every man mature in Christ Jesus;

29 for which I am toiling also, struggling in accord with His operation, which is operating in me with power.

I struggled to find an example of the Blessing in Paul's life, like others we've looked at throughout this study, but I couldn't find anything until the Lord reminded me that Paul, as a result of His personal and radical transformation from a murderous zealot into a

slave of Christ, and His personal, private tutelage by Christ, considered his service to the Lord to be his blessing:

Galatians 1:

13 For you hear of my behavior once, in Judaism, that I inordinately persecuted the ecclesia of God and ravaged it.

14 And I progressed in Judaism above many contemporaries in my race, being inherently exceedingly more zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

15 Now, when it delights God, Who severs me from my mother's womb and calls me through His grace,

16 to unveil His Son in me that I may be evangelizing Him among the nations . . .

26 references to Obedience in the OT

All have to do with obedience to God; to His commands (or instructions). Only two refer to consequences of disobedience.

Here's an example:

Jeremiah 7:22-24

²² For when I brought your ancestors out of Egypt and spoke to them, I did not just give them commands about burnt offerings and sacrifices, ²³ but I gave them this command: Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people. Walk in obedience to all I command you, that it may go well with you. ²⁴ But they did not listen or pay attention; instead, they followed the stubborn inclinations of their evil hearts. They went backward and not forward.

Let's look at some examples of the pattern