

## **CHOOSE GOD** **(Joshua 24:14-15)**

### **1.The patriarchal dispensation.**

- a.The first people, Adam and Eve, had a decision put to them at the first temptation.
  - i.Genesis 3:1-6.
  - ii.Eve had to choose whether or not to fall to the temptation of Satan.
  - iii.Adam had to choose whether or not to go along with his wife.
- b.In the next chapter, we read of a choice that two brothers had about how to worship.
  - i.In this account, we get to see what God expected of His people when it came to worship under that dispensation (Genesis 4:3-4; Hebrews 11:4).
  - ii.Men were given the command to offer of the flock a sacrifice to God.
  - iii.Job, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, understood this to be the case as well.
    - (1)Job offered sacrifices for his children (Job 1:5), and later, his friends (Job 42:8-9).
    - (2)You could follow the path of Abraham in his travels by the altars he erected to offer sacrifices to God.
  - iv.As far as worship to God went, this, along with prayer, is all that we are told the people of the first dispensation offered God.
  - v.We don't read of song services or anything such as that.
- c.There were still choices that had to be made for God, which sadly, many did not make.
  - i.The earth was so wicked that God destroyed it during the time of Noah.
  - ii.It was during this first dispensation that God gave up the Gentile world to their sinful ways and chose Abraham and his offspring to be His people.
  - iii.The vast majority of those in this first dispensation made the choice to reject God.
- d.We see how the rejection of God worked out for them.
  - i.It got the early world destroyed.
  - ii.It cost the Gentile world a relationship with God.
  - iii.It cost the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah their existence.
- e.On the other hand, those that chose God were greatly blessed.
  - i.Abel still speaks to us today as an example for choosing God.
  - ii.Job was blessed doubly for choosing God.
  - iii.Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were all blessed for choosing God over sin.

### **2.The Mosaic Dispensation.**

- a.Right before he died, Moses let the people know they had a choice to make (Deuteronomy 30:19-20).
  - i.They had made terrible decisions soon after the Law was given, in fact, while the law was being given.
  - ii.Then, they made a terrible decision 38 years before we read this passage.
  - iii.They should have learned from this.
- b.Not many years later, Joshua challenged the people to choose God like he

- was for his family (Joshua 24:15).
  - i. During the lifetime of those that lived with Joshua, the people chose to serve God (Judges 2:7).
  - ii. However, it didn't take long for the people to make terrible decisions again (Judges 2:10-11).
- c. They then entered a period of what we could call a vicious cycle.
  - i. They would sin and start to pervert the worship of God or start worshiping false gods.
  - ii. God would cause a nation to come against them and punish them.
  - iii. They would finally repent and turn back to God.
  - iv. God would send a judge to deliver the people.
  - v. The people would be right with God for a time.
  - vi. Then it would start all over again.
- d. During the days of the kings, as long as the king was worshiping God in the right manner, the people were good.
  - i. Whenever leadership began to veer off to serve false gods, the people would follow.
  - ii. The people were challenged by prophets to make a choice (1 Kings 18:21).
  - iii. For a time, they might follow God, but we know how it ended for them.
- e. Even after captivity, the people had to be challenged to choose God.
  - i. Haggai 1:5.
  - ii. Zechariah 1:3 (notice vs 4 where God reminded them of their forefathers).
- f. Each call that went out was a call to choose God.
  - i. The way of choosing God was to worship Him properly.
  - ii. They were to give the proper gifts and make the proper sacrifices while loving Him with their whole heart.

### **3. The Christian dispensation.**

- a. Once the Lord came, died on the cross, returned to heaven, and established His spiritual kingdom, men have been called to make a choice.
- b. You and I, despite what is taught by many in the religious world, have the power to choose to follow God.
  - i. John 1:12-13 - it is our choice to believe in Jesus or not.
  - ii. Acts 2:40 - we have to make the choice to be saved.
  - iii. 2 Corinthians 13:5 - we have to continue making the choice by continual self-examination.
- c. You and I not only make this choice initially, to follow Christ, but we keep making it til death (Revelation 2:10).
- d. Some have made the choice to not follow as we all know.
- e. Some have made the choice to quit following (2 Timothy 4:10).
- f. One way that we make the choice is to choose to worship properly.
  - i. This was true in each of the first two dispensations and it is true in the one in which we are living.
  - ii. John 4:24.
- g. I firmly believe that how we worship God is vitally tied to whether or not we keep choosing God.
  - i. Those that pervert worship are choosing self because that is who is

being worshiped.

ii. Those that worship with the right actions but their hearts aren't in it, eventually fall away (Revelation 2:2-5).

iii. Those that give their hearts to God in worship while maintaining God's way of worship end up with the crown of life.