

CHOOSE LIFE

Lesson 8 for November 20, 2021








Moses offered two paths to Israel: one leading to life, and another one leading to death.

Do we have the same options today? Is there a third or fourth option? Is it important to make a decision, or can we just go with the flow?

The message in Deuteronomy is very clear. The most important piece of advice for us was given by God through Moses, “Therefore choose life.” (Dt. 30:19)



-  The ability to choose
-  Middle ground
-  Two options
-  An easy choice
-  The final decision

THE ABILITY TO CHOOSE

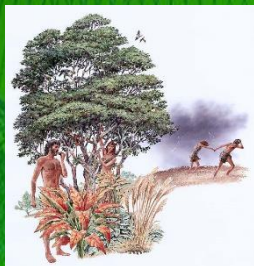
"And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.'" (Genesis 2:16-17)

There are many different types of living beings on Earth, but only humans can make moral decisions.

God didn't give animals the ability to choose which food they could eat (Gn. 1:30). However, He forbade humans from eating a specific fruit, and told them about the consequences of disobeying.

Adam and Eve chose death. They disobeyed and lost access to the tree of life (Gn. 3:22).

Nevertheless, God intervened to avoid leaving the fate of humanity to the consequence of that decision. He conceived a plan to give us access to the tree of life through Jesus (Rev. 2:7; 22:2).



MIDDLE GROUND

"He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life." (1 John 5:12)

The Bible presents only two options, we can only choose between life and death.

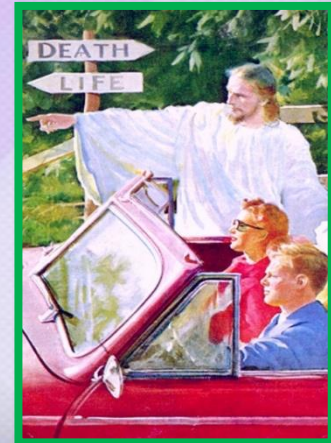


Is there middle ground? Can we be part of life and death at the same time? Can we just be neutral? Can we avoid making a stand, and therefore make no decision at all?

John was very clear about this. Those who accept Jesus as their Savior have life. Those who doesn't are dead (i.e. will suffer eternal death).

Making no decision or postponing it is like choosing death. There are no more options.

"THEREFORE CHOOSE LIFE" (Dt. 30:19)

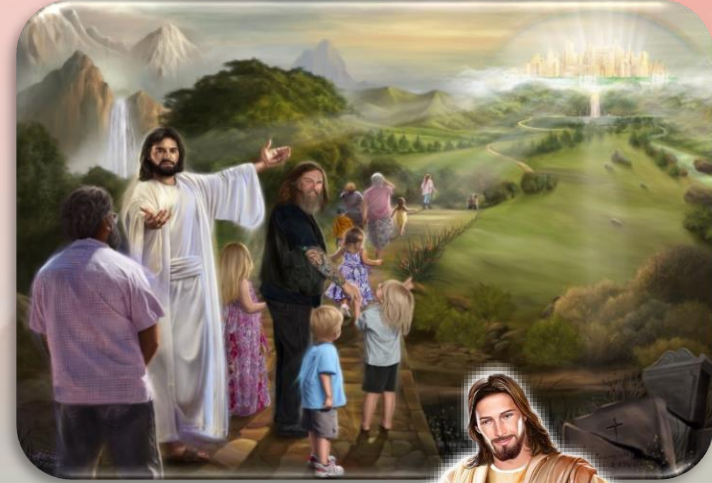


TWO OPTIONS

“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil,” (Deuteronomy 30:15)

The difference between life and death is determined by good (life) and evil (death). God’s offer is quite simple, He offers us one option: good and therefore life.

He explained what good is, “that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live.” (Dt. 30:16)

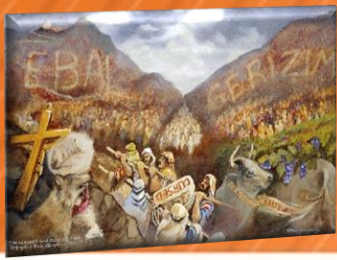


Loving God gives us life. Death is the natural consequence of living apart from Him. Lucifer was the first being to choose death. We are all struggling between these two options since then.

“THEREFORE CHOOSE LIFE” (Dt. 30:19)

- | I | II |
|---|--|
| 1. No tendrás dioses ajenos. | 8. Honra a tu padre y a tu madre. |
| 2. No te harás imágenes, no las honrarás ni les rendirás culto. | 9. No matarás. |
| 3. No te tomarás el nombre de Jehová tu Dios en vano. | 10. No cometerás adulterio. |
| 4. Reposa en el Santo Día Sábado. | 11. No hurtarás. |
| | 12. No dirás falso testimonio contra tu prójimo. |
| | 13. No codiciarás. |
- Éxodo 20

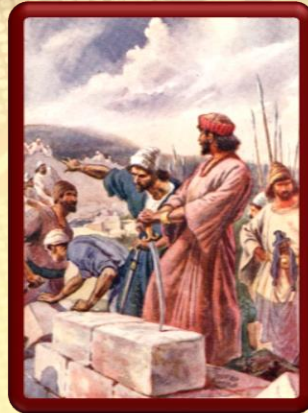




AN EASY CHOICE

"For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off." (Deuteronomy 30:11)

In order to make conscious decisions, we should understand the consequences of each option. Therefore, God explained the consequences of obeying Him or disobeying Him to Israel (Dt. 28).



He also guaranteed them that He would always be willing to forgive them and give them a second chance if they ever disobeyed (Dt. 30:1-3).

On the other hand, making this decision is easy. God has loved us so much that it's easy to love Him back, and to do what He likes in response (Jn. 3:16).

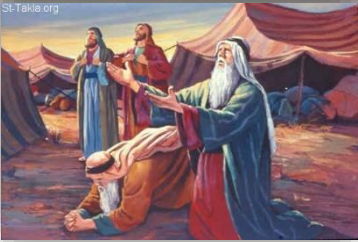
It's also easy to know what God likes. It's no mystery, as it's been clearly written in the Bible.

"THEREFORE CHOOSE LIFE" (Dt. 30:19)



THE FINAL DECISION

“Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the Lord your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish.” (Deuteronomy 8:19)



Worship is key in the Great Controversy. God is “a jealous God,” (Dt. 5:9) so He does not accept sharing our worship with anyone or anything else.

When we worship someone or something instead of God, we’re choosing evil and death. Worship is more than bowing before an image. Accepting the authority of people above God’s is also a matter of worship.

This will happen in the End Time, when “the image of the beast” will impose an authoritative mark against the Law of God.



However, this decision is not reserved to that moment. We must make the decision between worshipping God or leaving Him aside every day.

“THEREFORE CHOOSE LIFE” (Dt. 30:19)

“Every soul has a heaven to win, and a hell to shun [...] When the cases of all are judged [...] not one will have an excuse, not one will need to have perished. It was left to their own choice who should be their prince, Christ or Satan. All the help Christ received, every man may receive in the great trial. The cross stands as a pledge that not one need be lost, that abundant help is provided for every soul.”

“The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can choose to serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure.”