

The Choice  
Deuteronomy 30:11-20, Revelation 2:1-7  
October 23, 2016

1. God gave His people a \_\_\_\_\_ between blessing and curse.  
Deuteronomy 30:15, 19a <sup>15</sup>*See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. ...* <sup>19</sup>*This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses.*

[Read chapters 28-30 of Deuteronomy.]

2. Blessing comes through \_\_\_\_\_.  
Deuteronomy 30:16 *For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to Him, and to keep His commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.*

Psalms 73:18-20 *Surely You place them on slippery ground; You cast them down to ruin. <sup>19</sup>How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors! <sup>20</sup>They are like a dream when one awakes; when You arise, Lord, you will despise them as fantasies.* [Read all of Psalm 73]

3. Eventually Israel chose the \_\_\_\_\_.  
Deuteronomy 30:17-18 *But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.*

4. God gives the same choice to the \_\_\_\_\_.  
Revelation 2:5 *Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.*

5. Salvation is by \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ.  
Ephesians 2:8-9 *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast.*

6. God gives the same choice to \_\_\_\_\_.

Psalm 1:1-6 ***Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, 2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. 3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers. 4 Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. 6 For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.***

7. I choose \_\_\_\_\_.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 ***This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live 20 and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him. For the Lord is your life.***

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Deuteronomy 30:11-20, Revelation 2:1-7  
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- *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*
- Knight about Donovan, “He chose poorly.”

1. God gave His people, **Israel**, a choice between blessing and curse.

Deuteronomy 30:15, 19a <sup>15</sup> ***See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. ... <sup>19</sup> This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses.***

[Read chapters 28-30 of Deuteronomy. [A sermon of Moses](#)]

2. Blessing comes through obedience.

Deuteronomy 30:16 ***For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to Him, and to keep His commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.***

- **I know there are counter examples. So does the Bible.**
- I can name two men who were living in blatant disobedience to God and who were at death’s door. I went and prayed for them and both miraculously recovered. And both continue to live in the same disobedience.
- But ultimately the deuteronomic principle works.

Psalm 73:18-20 ***Surely You place them on slippery ground; You cast them down to ruin.<sup>19</sup> How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors!<sup>20</sup> They are like a dream when one awakes; when You arise, Lord, you will despise them as fantasies.*** [Read all of Psalm 73]

3. Eventually Israel chose the curse.

Deuteronomy 30:17-18 ***But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, <sup>18</sup> I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.***

- That happened.
- All the things prophesied in Deuteronomy 28 happened.
- In 721 BC the northern kingdom of Israel was taken captive by the Assyrian empire.
- In 586 BC Jerusalem and the southern kingdom of Judah were taken captive by Nebbuchanezzer and the Babylonian empire.
- Only they weren't totally destroyed.
- God, in His mercy, restored them.

4. God gives the same choice to the church.

Revelation 2:5 ***Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.***

- 499 years ago, the Reformation split the western Church.
- Currently American Christianity is being split again.

5. Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:8-9 ***For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.***

- Gospel Presentation.
- Salvation is by grace through faith, not through works.
- But rich blessings come through obedience.

TR. It was true for the nations of Israel and Judah.

It's true for churches.

It's true for you and me.

6. God gives the same choice to individuals.

**Psalm 1:1-6 *Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, <sup>2</sup> but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. <sup>3</sup> That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.***

***<sup>4</sup> Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. <sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. <sup>6</sup> For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.***

7. I choose (Obedience / life / prosperity / blessing).

**Deuteronomy 30:19-20 *This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live <sup>20</sup> and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him. For the Lord is your life.***

- So now it's time for you and me to choose.
- There's a chamber full of enticing, golden goblets
- That is, there are many tempting paths of disobedience.
- But there is one path to blessing.
- **Obedience.**
- **love the Lord your God, listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him. For the Lord is your life.**
- Obedience is the Holy Grail.
- Don't choose poorly.