

CHOOSE GOD'S CHOICE

By
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I would like us to consider God's Heart for His People: for those who He has brought into a union with Himself. It is not just that God desires that those of us who are "saved" will go to a place called "Heaven" someday. God desires that those of us who know Him in Salvation come to experience and enjoy the fulness and greatness of this Relationship every day even while we are here upon this earth. There is a "fulness" to our Salvation that very few of us have come to experience, even though this is God's desire for us. We see this beautifully worded in Paul's prayer for the Church in **Ephesians 3:17**: *"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18: May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19: And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. 20: Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21: Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."*

Notice that God desires that we might be **filled with all the fulness of God**, but this is not just so that we can go about bragging of what we have gotten from God. God does everything for a purpose – His Purpose: and that is for His Glory. He is to be seen and made known in the Church, in

Believers by Christ Jesus: in those who are experiencing the fulness of all that He is.

So I want us to begin to consider God's Heart for His own People in the Scriptures. We see the type with natural Israel: bringing a people not just OUT – of bondage, sin, the world, and death: but IN – unto Himself, to be One with Him, into the Place that He prepared for Himself to dwell in. (Exodus 15:17) And to this People He would be their God, and they would be His People. Now we know that these people were redeemed out from Egypt by the Blood of the Lamb, which is a beautiful type of our Redemption and Salvation in Christ. These were the People that God brought into Covenant with Himself. He gave them Laws and Commandments by which to live with Him, and a system to worship Him – everything they would need to walk in this relationship with Him that He had brought them into. And all God asked was for them to love and obey Him.

But I want us to see that God was concerned about this Relationship: not just wanting a bunch of religious people to follow a set of rules – religiously. These were the People to whom God would say: “You are Mine.” **Exodus 19:5:** “*Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: 6: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.*” But I also want us to consider **Verse 4:** “*Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.*” Yes, they saw what God did to the Egyptians bringing about their deliverance, but the most important thing I want us to see was that God

brought them unto **HIMSELF**. And in God's Mind this meant He brought them to be One with Him.

And as we read our Old Testament there were great dealings of God with Israel: providing for them, encouraging them, admonishing and correcting them, and even punishing them when it was necessary. This was not because He was a mean or vindictive God, but a loving God who wanted them - His People, those who were known by His Name, to experience His love and goodness and walk continually in this relationship with Him. The Scriptures declare that God wanted things to "go well with thee". And the word "well" here (Strong's #3190) means: to be well, make well, sound, beautiful, happy, successful, right, be accepted, seem best, make cheerful, be content, find favor, make sweet. This was God's thought for His People. And we see this beautifully expressed in the book of Deuteronomy. Now Deuteronomy is the book in which is recorded Israel's history of going over into Canaan, the land God promised them. But God did not want them just to enter into this land: they were to go into the land to possess it: make it their own. **Deuteronomy 1:8:** *"Behold, I have set the land before you: go in and possess the land which the LORD swore unto your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give unto them and to their seed after them."* And the word "possess" is Strong's # 3423 which means to occupy by driving out previous tenants and possessing in their place. It means to seize upon, and there is an action implied of casting out and destroying in order to inherit and make it one's own.

So what God desired for Israel was that they would go into the land: drive out all of the inhabitants and take possession of all the fulness of this land: experiencing everything that

God had prepared for them. But the Scriptures declare emphatically that in order for it to “go well with thee” Israel had to be obedient unto God. So in this book of Deuteronomy that chronicles Israel going in and possessing the land, we see 10 instances where God spoke of things “going well with thee”. The inference here is that in order for it to “go well with thee” we have to keep God’s Words and His Ways. Please consider these scriptures prayerfully:

- **Deuteronomy 4:40:** *“Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes, and his commandments, which I command thee this day, **that it may go well with thee**, and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days upon the earth, which the LORD thy God giveth thee, for ever.”*
- **Deuteronomy 5:16:** *“Honour thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, **and that it may go well with thee**, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.”*
- **Deuteronomy 5:29:** *“O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, **that it might be well with them**, and with their children for ever!”*
- **Deuteronomy 5:33:** *“Ye shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and **that it may be well with you**, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess.”*
- **Deuteronomy 6:3:** *“Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; **that it may be well with thee**, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey.”*
- **Deuteronomy 6:18:** *“And thou shalt do that which is*

*right and good in the sight of the LORD: **that it may be well with thee**, and that thou mayest go in and possess the good land which the LORD swore unto thy fathers,”*

- **Deuteronomy 12:25:** *“Thou shalt not eat it; **that it may go well with thee**, and with thy children after thee, when thou shalt do that which is right in the sight of the LORD.”*
- **Deuteronomy 12:28:** *“Observe and hear all these words which I command thee, **that it may go well with thee**, and with thy children after thee for ever, when thou doest that which is good and right in the sight of the LORD thy God.”*
- **Deuteronomy 19:13:** *“Thine eye shall not pity him, but thou shalt put away the guilt of innocent blood from Israel, **that it may go well with thee.**”*
- **Deuteronomy 22:7:** *“But thou shalt in any wise let the dam go, and take the young to thee; **that it may be well with thee**, and that thou mayest prolong thy days.”*

I want us to see God's Heart: He was not just setting up a bunch of rules and then punishing people because they could not keep them. To God “it would go well with thee” meant that they would walk in Oneness with HIM! He was grieved when His People walked separately from Him and brought problems upon themselves because of their disobedience. And out from His Love for His People Israel, God over and over raised up Prophets to call them back to Him so that they could experience all that He had done for them in bringing them out of Egypt into “the land”. And we must properly understand that primarily the Old Testament Prophets were raised up in Israel and given God's Word – not to give “us” (Believers today) prophecies of future happenings, but primarily to call them back to their Jehovah

God whom they had left. And this thought: that things would “go well with thee” is spoken by the Prophet Isaiah when he speaks to Israel of their disobedience. Things would “go well with them” if they obeyed their God. **Isaiah 1:18:** *“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. 19: If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: 20: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.”* Notice “willing”. This is a condition of the heart, not just actions that we take in the flesh. And Isaiah here brings a definite contrast: obedience brings great rewards, and rebellion brings devastating results. Why? Not because the enemy was so strong, but because the Lord spoke it. The Lord was giving them a choice: either to **CHOOSE HIM AND OBEY HIM** or rebel against Him, but He was clearly telling them the consequences of their choices.

So as we continue to consider God’s desire that His People come to experience all that He has prepared for them, we must see that for this to happen things must be HIS WAY. We are seeing in the Scripture, and finding out in our own experiences that when Israel allowed their Jehovah God to rule, and they submitted themselves to Him in all things, they enjoyed great joy and victory. But when they (and we) want to do things “our way” there is confusion and defeat. But it is important for us to see that **we choose**: either God’s Way or man’s. Now remember God’s Way is settled in Heaven, but we can reject it here in the earth and suffer because of that choice.

And we must see that God makes His Will and Way known.

He is not ambiguous. He sets forth His Mind, and then tells us to choose. But He also tells us the consequences of our choice. This began in the garden. **Genesis 2:9:** *“And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. 16: And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”* In the garden God set the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. And God said if you eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil you die, you will be separated from God. This was God’s Mind and this is how He still functions today. Adam chose that tree to make himself wise and to live by himself, apart from God. This was NOT God’s choice for man, but Adam chose for himself and received the consequences of his choice. He was put out of the garden, not able to return to God’s Presence. **Genesis 3:23:** *“Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. 24: So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”*

But notice God “kept The Way of The Tree of Life” because that was His Choice for man, so that man could have a relationship and union with God. God didn’t change HIS choice because Adam did not choose God’s Choice, and He never will! And “The Way of The Tree of Life”, we all should know is **The Cross of Jesus Christ**. So even today, if we choose God’s Choice: The Tree of Life, we live – in Oneness

with Him. But if we choose the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil - we die, we are separated from God.

And in **Deuteronomy 28** Moses set forth for Israel God's blessings for obedience, and God's curses for disobedience. And it is important for us to see that these blessings and curses are dependent upon God's People hearkening unto the Voice of the Lord and desiring to do all His commandments. Consider **Deuteronomy 28:1**: *"And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: 2: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God... 15: But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee."*

But he urges Israel to be obedient to their Jehovah God, the One who they are in Covenant with who has done so much for them. He set before them Life and good, and Death and evil: and He tells them to **CHOOSE**. But we must see God's Heart for them: **God wants them to choose His choice – LIFE! Deuteronomy 30:15**: *"See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; 16: In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it. 17: But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt*

*not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them; 18: I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it. 19: I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: **therefore choose life**, that both thou and thy seed may live: 20: That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”* This is God’s Heart for His people - that they find HIM as their LIFE! He wants them to chose HIM!

So God desires that we choose Life: Eternal Life. Now that doesn’t mean that “we” live forever, but that we receive His Life and Live in union with Him Eternally. And that begins now when we choose Life. And God has determined how this happens: He has chosen Christ to be The Way by which we obtain Eternal Life.

- **I John 5:11:** *“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12: He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”*
- **John 10:10:** *“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”*
- He is the One by which we come to God: into Union with Him. **John 14:6:** *“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way,*

the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” This is the means God chose for “whosoever will” to be “saved” and come to a relationship of Life with God. We must CHOOSE Jesus Christ.

And we should see clearly from these Scriptures that if we want to come to God and be in Union with Him, in Covenant with Him, and in a Relationship of Life with Him **we have to choose His choice**: we must agree with His choice. **Amos 3:3**: “*Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*” We are not talking about “choosing a religion”: we are talking about choosing Life: choosing God’s choice – Eternal Salvation Life in Christ Jesus.

And we must understand that “Christ” is “The Place” that God has chosen for a people to be “in” (at rest, finding HIM as their Being) so that they can be in Union with God, having His Life. This was what God determined and planned even before He created the world. The Place of God’s choosing, God’s choice: Christ was established Eternally in the Godhead even before the world. **Ephesians 1:4**: “*According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.*” But we must understand God has not chosen some to be “in Christ” and some not: but Christ is The Place: The Place of His Choosing, The Place/Person God chose His People to be “in”. Now we individually can choose whether to accept Christ or not: to choose death or Life. But Christ is where God has put all His Spiritual Blessings. **Ephesians 1:3**: “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.*” And when we choose Christ we have all that God has prepared for a People who are living in

Union with Him. We see all of these benefits in **Ephesians 1**: we are made holy and without blame, predestinated unto the adoption, made accepted in the Beloved, we have redemption, forgiveness of sins, He has abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence. And in Christ all the promises of God are fulfilled because that is where God chose them to be. So when we “choose Christ” it certainly will “go well for us”.

And it is important for us to understand what God has chosen because the Scriptures tell us some glorious things about this. **Ephesians 1:10**: *“That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:”* All things we read of in the Bible, and all things that God has prepared and promised are come to be fully understood and experienced where God has put them – IN CHRIST. The Eternal Plan of the Godhead was always to focus all things upon Christ. **Colossians 1:16**: *“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18: And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. 19: For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;”*

This is what The Father has chosen and what He has made Christ to be, and we must give Him HIS preeminent position in all things. Why? Because it pleases The Father that all the fulness of the Godhead dwell in HIM – the One whom God has chosen to be the expression of Himself and the

manifestation of God's Heart and Mind towards His People. Notice this is all about HIM, not us. God has not chosen "us", but He has chosen Christ and desires that we experience all that He is because God has "chosen us **in Him**". And God in His Wisdom desires that we live in the fulness of all that Christ is. **Colossians 2:9**: *"For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10: And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:"* So because God has chosen to put all things in His Son, God wants us to choose HIM, and find all things IN HIM.

So we can see that God's choice is His Son Jesus Christ, but as importantly we have to see that God's choice is also The Cross: The Death and Burial of Jesus Christ in order to bring forth His Resurrection and give us New Life. Remember God did not just choose His Son to be a good man and walk the earth doing miracles. God chose His Son even before the world began to be The Lamb that would be slain and His sacrifice would be accepted for our Redemption. **I Peter 1:18**: *"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19: But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,"* **Revelation 5:6**: *"And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth... 9: And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every*

kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;”

And because God chose Jesus AND The Cross, you cannot “choose Christ” and reject His Cross: they are One. And even though our theological understanding may be lacking, when we have received Jesus Christ, in God’s view we were not placed in a religion: we were placed into His Death; placed into The Work of His Cross. **Romans 6:3:** *“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4: Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”* We have to come to God’s understanding of this and willingly and obediently choose not only Jesus, but His Cross. This is “the same mind” that **Philippians 2** speaks of that we should have: being obedient unto death, even The Death of The Cross. And our obedience is our choosing The Cross of Christ that God chose for us.

But I’m not suggesting that this just become a Theological Doctrine to us. Jesus Himself said if we want to be His Disciples we must choose His Cross for ourselves. **Matthew 16:24:** *“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25: For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.”* If you truly choose the Working of The Cross (we can either choose His Cross or reject its working in us) you don’t seek to save your own life: but you will lose it for Christ’s sake. Why? Because this was God’s choice: God didn’t choose “YOU” in the flesh. He chose **CHRIST** and if and when The Cross has its full Work in us it removes the old man, the

flesh man: every thing that is not Christ, and allows only Him to remain. Then the reality of **Galatians 2:20** will be The Truth by which we live and function daily. *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”* But this only works IN US as we continually choose The Cross: “choosing The Cross” is NOT a one-time decision at our “conversion”. It must be a continual choosing which will allow The Cross to continually work in us. May The Lord open our spiritual eyes and deal with our hearts so that we will continually choose to live by Christ and The Finished Work of His Cross. And when we do it will not be “us as Christians” trying to be like Jesus; but it will be CHRIST living His Life in us, glorifying The Father. Then it will not be the sanctimonious, fleshly efforts of religious people, but a presencing of The Son, which is what pleases The Father.

So His Son – The Lord Jesus Christ is The One that God has chosen even before the foundation of the world to be the Savior, Deliverer, Redeemer, Healer – all things. And God has chosen His Son to rule and reign, most especially over the People of God. **Ephesians 1:22** says, *“... God gave Him to be The Head over all things to the church, which is His Body...”* This is who Christ now is: chosen of God to rule His Body, but now WE have to decide if we are going to also choose God’s choice, and allow Christ to rule and reign in all things for us. It is our choice, but remember there will be consequences to our choice. Life or death: choosing God’s choice will bring us Life, Eternal Life, union with God; rejecting God’s choice will bring us death, separation from God. And I just want to reiterate the phrase that we looked at in Deuteronomy. When we choose God’s choice it will “go

well with thee”. But when we reject God’s choice, and make choices for ourselves, or what seems right to us, things do not go well with us. **Proverbs 14:12:** *“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”* So if we live by our own wisdom: by what seems right to us rather than allowing the Lord to be our wisdom and rule in us, the end of that is truly death – separation from God. Just remember the choice is ours!!

It comes down to the issue of who are you going to serve? Who are you going to let rule you: not just rule IN you, but rule YOU? The Lord who has Redeemed you and kept you faithfully, or other gods – even yourself or things that you worship that are other than Him? This is what we have to decide and choose. And this is something deliberate: acknowledging and loving The Lord on one hand while on the other hand putting away all the other gods and things that would control you. Joshua states this choice emphatically in **Joshua 24:14:** *“Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. 15: And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, **choose you this day whom ye will serve;** whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”* God wants us to choose and serve HIM – allowing His Rule over everything that He has established for His People. And in the choosing of Him and His Rule over us, there must be a complete putting away and forsaking of any other ruling force: even ourselves and our religious thoughts. We truly cannot serve two masters!

In this regard I am reminded of what happened when Jesus appeared on The Mount of Transfiguration. Moses and Elijah also appeared, but God was showing His ultimate choice – **HIS SON! Matthew 17:2:** *“And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. 3: And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. 4: Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. 5: While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.”* God’s choice was not three tabernacles for the types, but only ONE: The One who overshadowed all of them and would come forth in God’s fulness – His Son! He was The One who was the Love of The Father, and He was The One that they were only to hear! And God wants us also to choose to see and hear only **His Son!**

So for me it all comes down to the issue of who is ruling: Who is the One that we are in subjection to in all things. And we see this in the Scriptures regarding the issue of “King” in Israel. We are facing this issue in the book of 1 Samuel with Israel demanding “A.” King. **1 Samuel 8:5:** *“And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.” 6: But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD.”* And the problem was that **God** desired to rule Israel: not man. They were to be different from all the other nations because Jehovah God was to be KING over them. So when Israel

was demanding “A King” so that they could be like all the nations, they were rejecting their God from ruling over them – a very serious matter. **I Samuel 8:7:** “*And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but **they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.*** **8:** *According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee.* **9:** *Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.”* It was their rejection of God reigning over them that displeased Samuel and the Heart of God. And I really want us to consider this: just like Israel we want God to do things FOR us: bless us, make us to prosper, protect us. But when it comes to HIM RULING US – that is another matter. God chose for HIS Rule over His People – not the rule of the flesh: but Israel rejected that Rule and demanded A King so that they could look like all the other nations – something God did NOT chose for them to be! HE was to be their strength, protection, guide, provision – not A man! So Israel had to choose between the rule of the flesh or the rule of the Spirit – God’s Rule. And as we continue reading, we see that God had **THE** King HE desired for Israel, not just **A** King – a man who looked kingly in the sight of man.

And God even told them what kind of A King they would have if they rejected HIM from ruling them: one that would function according to the flesh and take advantage of them, and things would NOT “go well with them” because this was NOT God’s choice for them. **I Samuel 8:11:** “*And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you:*

*He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots. 12: And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots. 13: And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers. 14: And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants. 15: And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants. 16: And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work. 17: He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants. 18: And ye shall cry out in that day **because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.***” God knew that Israel’s choice of “A King” (different from “THE King” God had chosen for them) would damage their relationship with the Lord, what He did not want to happen. But this is what they chose. **I Samuel 8:19:** *“Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; 20: That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.”* And this was a problem for Israel, and also for us: they were continually choosing themselves over God: rejecting Him that He should not reign over them. They were not choosing God’s choice: that he should be their King. Rather they chose and wanted a man that they could look to as being representative of themselves: a man who looked like A King in the flesh. And even though God told them what “their King” would do, they still chose what was not God’s

choice. The flesh will always produce flesh - death: but the Spirit will always produce Spirit – Life. And we will get what WE choose!

Now Saul was not totally bad: he was handsome and looked good. The problem with Saul was simply that he was the People's choice, and not God's. They were looking at the natural circumstances and the natural man: not considering God's View and God's Plan. Saul was NOT a man after God's Own Heart: one that would be ruled by God Himself. And as we sadly see, Saul was incapable of being obedient to God, even though he thought he was, and justified himself into believing he was! Saul was ruled by the flesh which we see clearly when he "forced himself to offer a burnt offering" (invading into the Priest's office) rather than waiting on the Lord (**1 Samuel 13:8-12**). He was more focused on himself than on the Lord, and the Lord would NOT tolerate this rule over His People. **1 Samuel 13:14:** *"But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee."*

And Saul would NOT obey The Lord and destroy all of the Amalekites: keeping the "best" of the cursed, and the King Agag – and presenting them to God! The Flesh was ruling: deciding what was good and bad, rather than the Lord ruling. **1 Samuel 15:9:** *"But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly."* And when Saul was confronted with his disobedience, he insisted HE was obedient and blamed

the disobedience on the people: showing further that HE was NOT God's Choice for King! **I Samuel 15:20:** *“And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. 21: But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal. 22: And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. 23: For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.”*

Now I want us to see here more than just a “Bible Story”. There is an important principle we must see here regarding WHO is ruling us: the flesh or the Spirit. They can NOT be mixed, and God will not tolerate the flesh – in any capacity: so much more from ruling His People. **Romans 8:5:** *“For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. 6: For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7: Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8: So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”* The flesh can NOT please God and will NOT be ruled by God! Think on that! This is why God wants HIS KING to Rule in His People, not the flesh which CANNOT be obedient to Him! But we can CHOOSE who we want to rule us: flesh or Spirit. The one brings distress, defeat and despair: the other brings strength, confidence and victory -

rest. Look at the condition of Israel – God’s People; those who were to be making the Name of Jehovah known in the earth under Saul’s leadership: the leadership of a disobedient, self-righteous, disobedient King of flesh. They could NOT stand against the enemies around them! **I Samuel 13:4:** *“And all Israel heard say that Saul had smitten a garrison of the Philistines, and that Israel also was had in abomination with the Philistines. And the people were called together after Saul to Gilgal. 5: And the Philistines gathered themselves together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the sea shore in multitude: and they came up, and pitched in Michmash, eastward from Beth-aven. 6: When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, (for the people were distressed,) then the people did hide themselves in caves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in high places, and in pits. 7: And some of the Hebrews went over Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was yet in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.”* This was not the Testimony Israel was to be in the earth, but this is what happens when we choose FLESH to rule us.

Now there is a great deal to this study, but we have seen that GOD rejected Saul (the rule of Flesh) from reigning over Israel because God had never chosen that for His People. But sadly, the FLESH has trouble letting go of the FLESH: of the Rule of the Flesh, but God will NOT accept what He has not chosen! God spoke this to Samuel, who despite knowing God’s Heart, had a hard time letting go of Saul as King. **I Samuel 16:1:** *“And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send*

*thee to Jesse the Beth-lehemite: **for I have provided me a king among his sons.***” And the important point I want us to see is that GOD PROVIDED HIMSELF WITH HIS KING – The One who pleased Him: The One who HE chose; and HE was The One who would be anointed as THE KING over God’s People. And God will only accept The One He has chosen, and every other one will always be REJECTED of God. Samuel found this out when he was in Jesse’s house “looking” for God’s King with his natural eyes and understanding.

I Samuel 16:6: *“And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD’S anointed is before him. 7: But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart. 8: Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this. 9: Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this. 10: Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these.”* The “seven-fold” rejection of these sons is speaking of a FULL rejection of ALL that is NOT God’s Chosen One – The King He chose, speaking of Christ, His Son. Now to Samuel, GOD’S choice - David had to be revealed and sent for, and then HE was recognized and anointed as GOD’S KING. **I Samuel 16:11:** *“And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither. 12: And he*

sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he. 13: Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward...." The anointing of the horn of oil is speaking of the full recognition and empowering of THE King that God had chosen for His People, Israel. And this comes to its fulfillment in Christ, THE ANOINTED ONE, THE MESSIAH whose Kingdom and Rule is Eternal. This is why the issue of THE KING Ruling over Israel is so important: only THE King that God chose is anointed and accepted of God.

And under David, God's choice for King, Israel comes to victory over the enemy and peace: something that they did not come to under Saul. Under the disobedient rule of flesh under Saul the enemies raged against them and were not fully subdued. But when God's King ruled things changed. Remember God's choice is established in the heavens, and God will have what He has chosen to have. And if we reject God's choosing, WE are the ones that suffer because of that.

But God had given Israel "A King" as they demanded because God wanted them to see the folly of letting man rule: not because He gave up His choice and would accept another. And I want us to see that this grieved the Heart of God because they not only wanted a MAN to rule them, but they were REJECTING God's Rule over them, and God reminded them of this even when Saul was anointed as King. **I Samuel 10:18:** *"And said unto the children of Israel, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all kingdoms, and of them that*

oppressed you: **19:** And ye have this day rejected your God, who himself saved you out of all your adversities and your tribulations; and ye have said unto him, Nay, but set a king over us. Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes, and by your thousands.” God’s Heart was always that they would “choose HIM” – love the Lord, serve Him and obey His Voice. So He often reminded them of what He had done for them. But He gave THEM the choice of either obeying The Voice of The Lord or rebelling against Him. **I Samuel 12:12:** “And when ye saw that Nahash the king of the children of Ammon came against you, ye said unto me, Nay; but a king shall reign over us: **when the LORD your God was your king. 13:** Now therefore behold the king whom ye have chosen, and whom ye have desired! and, behold, the LORD hath set a king over you. **14:** If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the LORD your God: **15:** But if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be against you, as it was against your fathers.”

And Samuel begged the people not to turn aside from following The Lord: but to serve Him with all their heart: to let HIM Rule! And I really want us to consider God’s great Grace and Love for His People: even when they are not faithful to Him, He is faithful to them. But we must acknowledge that when we reject His Rule over us we cannot follow Him and serve Him. **I Samuel 12:19:** “And all the people said unto Samuel, Pray for thy servants unto the LORD thy God, that we die not: for we have added unto all our sins this evil, to ask us a king. **20:** And Samuel said unto

the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart; 21: And turn ye not aside: for then should ye go after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain. 22: For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people. 23: Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way: 24: Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you. 25: But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king.” Look at the glorious Promise in verse 22: **“For the Lord will not forsake His people for His great Name’s sake: because it hath pleased the Lord to make you His People.”** Remember God has CHOSEN a People to come unto Him and be in Union with Him, and He will NOT forsake them because they are His. This is not a license for us to be rebellious against God: but we need to see here that God always desires us to choose His Choice, and not what is of our own choosing. He always remains faithful to Himself and He does things for His Great Name’s Sake. So when we are disobedient to Him we need to consider that we are rebelling against His Name and His Love, Grace and Mercy. And this is a serious matter I pray that we will consider.

The history of Saul and David and the issue of “King” goes on, and sadly we see the vain attempts of Saul to “keep his kingdom” even though God had rejected him. I leave that with you for further study. But even though *“Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him, and departed from Saul;”* (1 Samuel 18:12), Saul sought many times to KILL DAVID! And as I read these “stories” I am overwhelmed by

the understanding that the flesh will not go quietly! The flesh seeks to retain its control, even though it knows it has been rejected of God, and the Lord is NOT with the flesh. I pray the Lord will help us to see that choosing the flesh, choosing ourselves to rule over us is not only foolish but a futile effort because **God will never not choose His Son as King.** Israel came to acknowledge this but not before they suffered tremendous consequences because of their choice of Saul as King, and Saul refusing to submit himself to God's Choice of King. **II Samuel 5:1:** *"Then came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh. 2: Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel."* Even when WE allow (and even demand) the flesh to rule over us, CHRIST still is God's King! So ultimately if we desire to walk in union with God we must **CHOOSE GOD'S CHOICE!** Then things will "go well with thee."

AMEN