

CHOICES – Why don't more people choose life when they realize the spiritual choice before them? What can we provide as an answer to them?

Submitted by Missionary Yvonne Powell

Jeremiah 21:8 NIV - Furthermore, tell the people, 'This is what the LORD says: See, I am setting before you the way of life and the way of death.

Jeremiah 21:8 ICB - Also tell this to the people of Jerusalem: 'This is what the Lord says: I will let you choose to live or die.

Here are two translations of the scripture. There are some key words, to look at.

Choice. God always allowed man to choose to follow him, love him, and to commit to his commandments. When God created animals, he spoke the word, but when he created man, man was given the breath of Gods, his essence, a spirit.

Genesis 1:27 says - God created humanity in God's own image, in the divine image God created them, male and female God created them.

With this image came a will, to make choices, and not always the best choices because it would seem sensible to choose life and not death, but people make choices from their own perspective - view, short sightedness and self-interest.

Leviticus 18:5 says - And ye shall observe my statutes and my judgments, by which the man that doeth them shall live: I am Jehovah.

This is nothing new. God had given them this law from the beginning to have life and many times they chose disobedience over life which = death.

Deuteronomy 30:19 says - I call heaven and earth to witness this day against you: life and death have I set before you, blessing and cursing: choose then life, that thou mayest live, thou and thy seed,

Guess what? People always want something for nothing. That means people want the blessings, and the benefits that God has promised but without any requirements. Yes, salvation is freely given, but a gift must be received, accepted, and hopefully treasured. People feel they give up their choice or power to control, but God is ultimately in control, so until it is realized that all our efforts cannot change things but provides maybe temporary results.

People look for a natural, carnal response not spiritual.

Because God is loving and kind, just because he does not choose judgment first and allows us to come to ourselves (many chances) people think oh a loving God will not allow destruction to come. But God told Adam and Eve, the soul that sinned shall die, because they did not immediately die physically, death became a part of our existence and separation from God.

God gave Israel many chances, warnings to choose life, but instead they trusted in their leader's ability, fortified city, past victories, and God's promises to them. Now God has promises for us, but like a contract, it is only best utilized when the receiver knows the terms. We are not losing following by his commandments, but we are gaining. Just as we do our children, we do not always discipline the first, second or even third time, if they show some willingness to comply. But if it continues, not only do we discipline, but they can injure their future. We must learn to trust God at his word, know his word, honor, and respect his authority and know he has our best interest at heart.