

The Choice is Ours

Deut 11:26-28

26 "Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: 27 the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you today; 28 and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known. NKJV

We have a great and holy heritage in this nation. For by far the founders of this nation were Christian men and women. They viewed this new land as a land given them by God and determined to make it a Christian nation.

But we are swiftly allowing that to slip away. Even in those early generations, our founding fathers saw the weakness of a democratic republic. That unless a majority of its people are God fearing people that the nation would soon fall into the degeneracy and self-serving.

The one thing that is lost to this present generation was very real to this nation's first. The fact that raises up nations and He can also bring them to ashes. That first generation often called on God's aid, both from a personal position and as a national entity.

After 9-11 there seemed to be a renewed dependance upon God. But soon that was fashioned by our politically correct to include all gods. Just the thing that the passage before us today rejects.

I remember Erwin Lutzer tell about after 9-11 the religious gatherings in Chicago. But they were simply a mixture of everything, and that never pleases God. If anyone was excluded it was Jesus and His followers.

There are several things that this passage tells us.

- I. We must make a choice.
 - A. It is not that God has given us several options.
 1. There are but two.
 2. Choose God's way or some other way.
 3. Regardless of the other ways we might chose God sees them as all as a curse and not a blessing.
- II. Notice God does not describe the choice as between good and bad.
 - A. Although one is good and the other bad, that is not how He describes it.
 1. To choose God's plan is to choose righteousness.
 2. To choose any other way is to choose wickedness and sin.
 - B. But God describes the choices as between blessing and cursing.
 - C. He is saying to them, how do you want me to treat you.
 1. With blessings or a curse.

2. Now the answer would seem obvious if it was not tied to how we live rather than asking for one or another.
- III. Notice it is conditioned on behavior.
 - A. Not on what we say we believe, but how we live.
 - B. Not on our doctrinal statements.
 - C. Not on our religious people but the nation as a whole.
 - IV. The Scriptures tell us how that often God withheld the curse for a time.
 - A. Because He would give them space to repent.
 - B. Because of the faithfulness of earlier generations.
 - V. But the same Scriptures also record how that finally brought the curse upon them.
 - A. There were many times that God trouble on them because of their disobedience.
 - B. But there was God's final destruction.
 1. In God's words
 2. 2 Kings 21:10-15 10 And the Lord spoke by His servants the prophets, saying, 11 "Because Manasseh king of Judah has done these abominations (he has acted more wickedly than all the Amorites who were before him, and has also made Judah sin with his idols), 12 therefore thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'Behold, I am bringing such calamity upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whoever hears of it, both his ears will tingle. 13 And I will stretch over Jerusalem the measuring line of Samaria and the plummet of the house of Ahab; I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down. 14 So I will forsake the remnant of My inheritance and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become victims of plunder to all their enemies, 15 because they have done evil in My sight, and have provoked Me to anger since the day their fathers came out of Egypt, even to this day.'" NKJV
 - C. There was one final glimmer of hope, Josiah, but it could only temporarily delay the inevitable.

I often wonder where we are on God's time line for nations. We have no doubt reached the pinnacle and are on the decline but when will God bring judgment upon us.

Judgment much bigger than 9-11 or either world war. When will the Christians finally wake up, for you see they are the nation's only hope.

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