

3 - "CHOOSE LIFE!"

by B. G. ECHOLS

After forty years of wilderness wanderings a new generation of Israel finally neared the land of promise. Moses, knowing he must soon die, wants the people to be prepared, not just to enter the land, but also to live there in humble obedience to the One Who had brought them to their long desired destination. His final encouragement practically summarizes the whole story of Deuteronomy. "I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before thee life and death, the blessing and the curse; therefore, choose life, that thou mayest live, thou and thy seed" (Deut. 30:19). Moses had repeatedly made these points: Blessings when you love, obey, and observe His law; innumerable, excruciating hardships and curses if you do not. The very existence of their nation is at stake. Prosperity, strength, health, and hope can be gained or lost depending upon their choice. He exhorts them to "Choose life." They can do this only by living obediently. Subsequent history proved that God keeps His word. They got the land, then lost it by disobedience.

Jesus is giving you a choice. John writes, "Many other signs (miracles) therefore did Jesus in the presence of the disciples which are not written in this book; but these are written, that ye may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye

may have life in his name" (John 20:30,31). There can be no doubt the life He has in mind is eternal (John 3:16). Paul speaks of "the promise of the life which is in Christ Jesus" (II Timothy 1:1) for those who live for Christ. "But now being made free from sin and become servants of God, ye have your fruit unto sanctification, and the end eternal life. For the wages of sin is death; but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:22,23).

You have a choice - faith or disobedience, life or death, heaven or hell. When God told the people to choose life, they had the power to do so. Thus when they exercised their will to choose, God granted them His promise. So it is with Christ. "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). He is not mocking us with promises He will not keep. He is not speaking of physical burdens for He promises rest "unto your souls" (Mt. 11:29). The decision is yours. Some refused Christ when He was on the earth. "How often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not" (Mt. 23:37). He did not say they could not, but they would not. It was their will. What about you? Will you choose life?

(BGE)