

Title: No Choice!  
Text: Joshua 24: 14-15  
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**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.**

Spiritually dead sinners love to have choices, especially when it comes to God. Dead sinners imagine that we have dignity before God. That we have rights which God will not violate. We lost all dignity, all our rights, along with all our ability when we sinned in our first head, Adam, in the garden.

But notice in verse 15, the choice is not between serving the LORD or serving a false god. The choice is between which of the many false gods they would serve—**Joshua 24: 15:...whether the gods which your father’s served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell.** All of which were vain idols, proven to be vain because Christ conquered them all.

**Title:** No Choice

**Proposition:** Christ, the Head of the house of his spiritual Israel, has power to effectually make his house serve the LORD in spirit and in truth so that the believer has no choice and wants no choice.

**I. FIRST, WHILE DEAD IN SINS THE SINNER HAS A MULTITUDE OF CHOICES—at least he thinks he does.**

### **Idols**

All idol gods are created in the minds of depraved sinners. And there are more idols to choose from than there are sinners who create them. On one occasion God said that very thing. (turn to Ezekiel 20)

Ezekiel 20: 38: And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD. 39: As for you, O house of Israel, thus saith the Lord GOD; Go ye, serve ye every one his idols, and hereafter *also*, if ye will not hearken unto me: but pollute ye my holy name no more with your gifts, and with your idols. 40: For in mine holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, serve me: [no choices, only God] there will I accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the firstfruits of your oblations, with all your holy things.

**Notice** God did not say “Go ye, serve every one his idol” but “go ye, serve every one his idols.”

It is because in the vanity of the carnal mind, each individual unregenerate sinner has created, not just one, but multiple idols. But while dead in sins our choices are really no choices at all. They are all vain idols of our own making!

**II. SECONDLY, IT IS THE LORD GOD IN CHRIST WHO ALONE SETS THE HEART OF HIS PEOPLE ON CHRIST ALONE IN TRUE SAVING FAITH DELIVERING US FROM OUR IDOLS.**

## **Christ is the Head of His House and Servant of the LORD**

When Christ enters the heart made new by the Spirit of God, Christ effectually removes all our choices by setting our heart upon God alone through faith in Christ. Christ is the Head over the whole house of Israel. The whole house of Israel is not that political nation, it is God's spiritual Israel, made up of those God chose in Christ before the foundation of the world.

Christ is the Head over the whole house of his spiritual Israel. And Christ is the faithful servant of the LORD God. As the Mediator between God and his people Christ is serving the LORD God. He has finished the work of redeeming us from the curse of the law. And Christ is now serving the LORD God by bringing all his redeemed to serve the one true and living God through faith in Christ—"Christ filleth all in all." And Christ has all power in heaven and earth, so he shall serve the LORD God faithfully by bringing every member of his house to serve the LORD God in faith.

**Note:** For this reason, in our text, I am convinced that it is the pre-incarnate Christ—the Head of his house, the faithful Servant of the LORD God—who declares that very thing in verse 15—**Joshua 24: 15: As for ME and MY house WE WILL serve THE LORD?"**

The common interpretation is that Joshua said those words. And it may be Joshua. He is the head of his tribe. The heads of the houses of Israel is who was gathered there that day. But the statement certainly fits Christ our Head much better. Only Christ, the Head of the house of his spiritual Israel, has power to effectually make his house serve the LORD in spirit and in truth. This he does when he speaks in power into the heart through the preaching of the gospel. That is what we see in this passage. I will show you why it fits Christ better. But at any rate, Joshua, whose name is a form of Jesus, is a type of Christ.

### **A Preaching Service**

Joshua is preaching the gospel. But he is speaking the words of Christ who represents the LORD God as Mediator, as the Head of his house, as the servant of the LORD—**Joshua 24: 1: And Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and called for the elders of Israel, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers; and they presented themselves before God.**

This was a worship service like as you are gathered here today—"they presented themselves before God." Joshua gathered them—but it typifies Christ who alone gathers his people. Christ gathers his preacher and his people.

Matthew 18:20: where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

### **The Message of the Preacher**

Then we see the message of Christ's preacher are the words of our LORD God through Christ our Mediator—**Joshua 24: 2: And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel,...**

Joshua was the earthen vessel used to speak, just as Christ uses his preachers in our day. But the words Joshua spoke were, "Thus saith the LORD God of Israel."

### **The Words of Christ Representing Jehovah**

These are the words of Christ representing the LORD God to his people through the gospel.

I said to you on Thursday night, Christ is the only one who has ever prayed to God and was heard without a Mediator. A good question was asked afterward, “Was it Christ speaking to all believers throughout the old testament? Was it Christ who presented them to the Father?” Yes! God spoke in different ways but he has always spoken through Christ his Son, even prior to Christ coming in flesh. It is because Christ, the Son of God, has always been the only Mediator between the LORD God and men.

1 Timothy 2: 5: For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

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.

John 1: 18: No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

**Note:** In our text, that is exactly what Christ is doing through Joshua through the gospel, he is declaring the LORD God in all that Christ has accomplished for the LORD God.

**III. OUR ONE MESSAGE IS THE MESSAGE CHRIST SENDS US TO DECLARE: it is the word of Christ who declares that he has accomplished the will of the LORD God by accomplishing the salvation of his people, delivering us from all our enemies, from all our idol gods—We have examples of our message here.**

### **Concerning Abraham**

As Joshua preached Christ declares that it was he that delivered Abraham from his idols—**Joshua 24: 2: And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, [other side of the Euphrates or the Jordan Rivers] even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods.**

Abraham served those “other gods” which his father’s served. God called out Abraham but not his father’s. God’s grace is particular toward his people. And none but the true and living God can deliver his child from his idols.

Who saved Abraham from his idols? The only one who can! Christ!—**Joshua 24: 3: And I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood, and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his seed, and gave him Isaac.**

It was the pre-incarnate Christ, the eternal Son of God, who appeared on behalf of the LORD God to Abraham and Isaac. Just before Abraham sacrificed Isaac,

Genesis 22: 15: And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, 16 And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only *son*: 17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which *is* upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; 18 And in thy seed [Christ speaking of himself because he came through the house of Abraham] shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

### **Concerning Jacob**

Jehovah delivered Jacob by Christ—**Joshua 24: 4: And I gave unto Isaac, Jacob and Esau: and I gave unto Esau mount Seir, to possess it; but Jacob and his children went down into Egypt.**

God saved Jacob but not Esau. And Christ was the Ladder through whom the LORD God spoke to Jacob in Genesis 28. Also, it was Christ who wrestled Jacob, bringing Jacob to cry out for mercy to God in Genesis 32. It was Christ, the Mediator between God and Jacob, who delivered Jacob from his vain idols. So it is today.

### **Concerning Moses**

Jehovah delivered Moses by Christ—**Joshua 24: 5: I sent Moses also and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt, according to that which I did among them: and afterward I brought you out.**

It was Christ who appeared to Moses in the burning bush. The LORD God called Moses through Christ in the burning bush.

Exodus 3: 2: And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush:...4 And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush,

### **Concerning their Father's Deliverance out of Egypt**

Jehovah delivered their father's out of Egypt by Christ--**Joshua 24: 6: And I brought your fathers out of Egypt: and ye came unto the sea; and the Egyptians pursued after your fathers with chariots and horsemen unto the Red sea. 7: And when they cried unto the LORD, he [Christ referring to the LORD God his Father] put darkness between you and the Egyptians, and brought the sea upon them, and covered them; and your eyes have seen what I [Christ referring to himself], have done in Egypt: and ye dwelt in the wilderness a long season.**

That is clearly Christ declaring the works that he and the Father accomplished in delivering them from the idols of Egypt.

Also, during that long season in the wilderness, it was Christ leading them in the Cloud, the Fire, and the smitten Rock. The apostle Paul said,

1 Corinthians 10: 4: And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

### **Concerning the Deliverance of Those to Whom Joshua Preached**

Jehovah delivered them by Christ, first from Amalek—**Isaiah 24: 8: And I brought you into the land of the Amorites, which dwelt on the other side Jordan; and they fought with you: and I gave them into your hand, that ye might possess their land; and I destroyed them from before you.**

Christ is Jehovah Nissi, the LORD our Banner, that destroyed Amalek (Ex 17: 8-14).

### **Concerning their Deliverance from the Idolator Balaam**

Jehovah delivered them from Balaam by Christ—**Joshua 24: 9: Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and warred against Israel, and sent and called Balaam the son of Beor to curse you: 10:**

**But I would not hearken unto Balaam; therefore he blessed you still: so I delivered you out of his hand.**

Christ is the Angel of the LORD who appeared to Balaam and made him bless Israel.

Numbers 22: 31: Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face. 32: And the angel of the LORD said unto him,...thy way is perverse before me:...35: And the angel of the LORD said unto Balaam, Go with the men: but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak.

### **Concerning Joshua and their Deliverance from Idolatrous Jericho and all Their Enemies**

Jehovah delivered them by Christ—**Joshua 24: 11 And ye went over Jordan, and came unto Jericho: and the men of Jericho fought against you...and I delivered them into your hand. 12: And I sent the hornet before you, which drave them out from before you, *even* the two kings of the Amorites; *but* not with thy sword, nor with thy bow. 13: And I have given you a land for which ye did not labour, and cities which ye built not, and ye dwell in them; of the vineyards and oliveyards which ye planted not do ye eat.**

Christ perfect his people forever by his own offering—not by our works, by his. We are members of the house Christ is building, which we built not. We are of Christ the Vine—which he planted and not us. And it was Christ who appeared to Joshua with his sword drawn, who delivered them.

Joshua 5: 13: And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, *Art* thou for us, or for our adversaries? 14: And he said, Nay; but *as* captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? 15: And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest *is* holy. And Joshua did so.

So from verses 2-13, in the gospel Joshua preaches, it is Christ—the Mediator between the LORD God and his people—declaring how he accomplished the will of the LORD God, delivering their fathers, as well as them from a host of idol gods. It is not until verse 19 that we are told that Joshua begins to speak. Therefore, in verses 14-15, it appears that it is still Christ speaking in the gospel through his messenger Joshua.

### **IV. NEXT, IN VERSES 14 & 15, WE SEE WHAT CHRIST DOES IN OUR HEARTS TO DELIVER US FROM OUR IDOLATROUS SO-CALLED CHOICES.**

#### **Christ Speaks This Into the Heart**

As the gospel of Christ's accomplished works goes forth, Christ is the Prophet who speaks to his lost child personally, effectually, commanding his child in the heart, saying, **Joshua 24: 14: Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: [in spirit 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.**

A sinner has the fear of the LORD only when Christ commands it in our heart. We serve him in spirit and in truth only when Christ commands it in our heart. We repent—putting away the idols of our vain, unbelieving

father's only when Christ commands it in our heart. Joshua may have spoken these words but only Christ can make it effectual in the heart.

As the gospel goes forth, Christ makes us put away our so-called choices by effectually teaching us the vanity of our so-called choices, showing us that our idols were no gods at all. Christ says into the heart—**Joshua 24: 15: And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve.**

He says now what choices do you really have?—"Whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood?" Christ just declared how he conquered those idols when he conquered the hearts of our fathers and delivered them.

Or will you choose "the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell?" Christ conquers the idol gods of those in whose land you and I dwell when he enters our hearts and begins making us hear him in spirit and in truth.

So by his gospel, by his effectual word in our heart, one by one, Christ our Head removes all our choices, setting our hearts upon God alone through faith in Christ.

### **The Effectual Outcome**

This is always the outcome—**Joshua 24: 16: And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods;** [then they give God the glory for delivering them, then said]... **18:...therefore will we also serve the LORD; for he is our God.**

Joshua speaks for the first time since verse He reminds them that they cannot serve the LORD God Jehovah, except in Christ our Mediator. Then they said they will serve God by believing on Christ—**Joshua 24: 24: And the people said unto Joshua, The LORD our God will we serve, AND his Voice will we obey.**

God's Voice is not just the word of God's command. God's Voice, is the essential Word, Christ the Son of God.

John 10:27: My sheep hear MY Voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

We serve the LORD God by obeying the Voice of his Son, Christ our Mediator

### **God Makes an Everlasting Covenant with His People in Christ**

For times sake, later you can read verses 25-28. As Joshua did in type, God makes with his believing child an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and sure. It is written in God's book and is fulfilled in Christ. It is written in Christ's blood and written in the wounds of Christ our chief Cornerstone, like as Joshua wrote this covenant upon a stone. So having brought us to faith in Christ—with no choice—like Joshua let them go to their inheritance—Christ sets each believer at liberty, unto his inheritance.

Brethren, Christ is the Head of his house "from whom the whole body" is "fitly joined together" and by his "effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body", by which Christ edifies the whole body by his great love. (Eph 4: 16) So Christ can say with absolute certainty, "As for ME and MY house, we will serve THE LORD."

We who believe have no choices. And we want no choice because Christ has brought us to believe him and we are sure he is who he claims to be! Remember, when the multitude departed from Christ?

John 6: 67-69: Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

**Amen!**