

BOOK OF 1 KINGS
CHOICES – PART 1
1 KINGS 3:1

Introduction

People are different! Though we may have **similarities** in many different areas, we also have our **differences** in many other areas! **God did not make us robots that are all the same!** Aren't you glad? It keeps life interesting to say the least!

(e.g. I'm not like any other Pastor that you've ever had or ever will have! Don't expect me to be exactly like someone in your past and when I'm gone don't expect the next Pastor to be exactly like me!)

We each have **different make-up** of not only our DNA, but also of our personalities—Our likes and dislikes, how we respond when confronted with various scenarios. Some of us might be **fright and flight** in our psyche! While others might be more **fright and fight** in our psyche!

One thing we will notice in our studies is how that King David and King Solomon were **vastly different** in both their **personalities** and in **the way that they approached ruling the nation of Israel!**

David was a mighty **soldier who loved and served and fought for the people of God!** Solomon was not! He was more of a **scholar and we will see he was more like a politician who lay heavy burdens on God's people to support his extravagant lifestyle and his building programs!** (e.g. We will see that in the people's plea to Rehoboam after Solomon's death!)

David was interested in **fighting battles**, while Solomon was more interested in **erecting buildings!**

David was known for his **Psalms** from his heart! Solomon was known for his **Proverbs** of wisdom!

David was known for his **trust in God!** Solomon we will see is known for his **trust in his political savvy, treaties and achievement!**

And we see this in his the very first **CHOICE** that he makes after taking care of the old business that his father David had requested that he take care of!

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Every day of our lives in this world there are **CHOICES** that we each make! Most of you made a **CHOICE** to be here tonight for whatever reason! (I say **"MOST"** because some of the younger ones may have a **"drug problem"** like I had growing up! Before I had the proper desires and was able to make proper **CHOICES** on my own!—My parents **drug** me to Church!)

Now there are usually **motivations** behind the **CHOICES** that we make! (e.g. You don't want to get fired from your job and you need that paycheck to pay the bills and live and that's about all that **motivates** some to go to work!)

Some folks will use various excuses why they can't come to Church but those excuses don't keep them from going to work. It boils down to their **CHOICE!**

I hope the **motivation** behind your **CHOICE** to be here tonight was because **you have a godly DESIRE to be here with your Brothers and Sisters in Christ, a godly DESIRE to know folks needs and pray for them, and a godly DESIRE to study and know God's Word better!** (Now as your Pastor, I hope those were your **motivations** for making the **CHOICE** to be here! Hey, a preacher can dream, can't he?)

But listen, your Pastor is **not** so naive as to believe that everyone here has the **right motivation** for being here. I'm glad you are here anyway because sometimes God can do things when you made the right **CHOICE** even when your **motivation** for making the **CHOICE** is far from what it should be!

There may be some that are here out of a sense of DUTY...we DO have a DUTY not to forsake the assembly that we should take seriously!

Hebrews 10:24-25 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

But let me say that if you are **ONLY** here out of a sense of **DUTY**, rather than having a godly **DESIRE** to be here, you're probably **NOT** going to have much **JOY** in being here and you're probably **NOT** going to get all you could get out of being here as you could if you did it with a right heart attitude of **DESIRE!**

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Sometimes folks come faithfully (like they should) but it is written all over their faces and body language that they really don't want to be here! **ALL DUTY, NO JOY!** Could I just say that is a sad way to live your life as a Believer! To have an attitude of “*Well preacher, I'm here I hope you're happy!*” It's not about making the preacher happy! **It's about the LORD!**

There should be **JOY** in **OUR WORSHIP OF THE LORD!** There should be **JOY** in **OUR FELLOWSHIP WITH THE SAINTS!** There should be **JOY** in **WANTING TO HEAR FROM THE LORD THROUGH HIS WORD!**

There are, no doubt, some who are **NOT** here tonight that made a **CHOICE** not to be here tonight! They made a **CHOICE** to do something else **even if it is just sit at home and do nothing!** And there are others who had **NO CHOICE** in the matter as the **CHOICE** was made for them!
(e.g. *Work schedule, school schedule, family emergency, sickness...*)

We need to understand that wrong **CHOICES** can have some serious consequences! I can look back in my own life and see some wrong **CHOICES** I made years ago and how it still affects my life even today!

I can also look back and see some **CHOICES** that I made and oh how I'm glad I made the **CHOICES** that I did! I shiver to think about how different life might be if just even **ONE** of those critical **CHOICES** had been made the other way!

Some CHOICES may have little to no long term effect or consequences on our lives. (e.g. Choosing what clothes to wear on a particular day.)

Some CHOICES may have no immediate effect on our lives.
(e.g. Choices of what to eat on a particular day...unless it becomes a habit!)

Some CHOICES may have no immediate affect, but over the long term they can affect both us and others in a very bad way! (That's the kind of choices that we are going to be looking at tonight and LORD willing next Wednesday night!)

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We're going to see King Solomon make some **CHOICES** here pretty early on in his reign. Some of those **CHOICES** were **not so good** and wound up **costing him later.** Some of those **CHOICES** were **excellent** and had a **very positive influence on his life, his nation, and others around him!**

I. BAD CHOICES—HIS ALLIANCE WITH EGYPT AND MARRIAGE TO THE DAUGHTER OF PHARAOH—3:1

Solomon made an **affinity** (*i.e. to contract affinity by marriage*) here with Egypt and sealed it by marrying the daughter of Pharaoh. Nothing quite seals alliances like a marriage! And there is no doubt about it, this was a very significant marriage!

I found in my studies that what is known as the *Amarna Tablets* of the *18th Egyptian Dynasty* stated that **no daughter of Pharaoh was to be married to a foreigner.** The reason for that makes sense in that it had the possibility to weaken Egypt!

But by the *21st Egyptian Dynasty*, Egypt was already very weak and the Pharaoh of that time believed that it was an advantage for them to make an **affinity** or **alliance** with Israel.

With Israel's history with Egypt one wonders why he would make such a CHOICE! Think about it!

Egypt was the place Abraham CHOSE to go during the famine in the land where the LORD led him.(Genesis 12:10)
Abraham went there of his own accord ![i.e. It was an act of his **flesh** rather than in accordance with the counsel of the LORD!]

Hagar the Egyptian was the handmaid that Sarai gave to Abram which yielded the son of the flesh – Ishmael!
(*Genesis 16*)

Hagar the Egyptian very well could have been part of the dowry that Pharaoh gave Abram for Sarai before he found out she was his wife! (*He received manservants and maidservants.*)
(*Genesis 12:16*)

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It appears that Lot’s choice of land when he separated from Abram may have been influenced by what he saw during the time he was in Egypt with Uncle Abram! (Remember that his choice was made according to his FLESH!)

Genesis 13:10 And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.

Hagar took Ishmael a wife out of Egypt! (Genesis 21:21)

When there was a famine in the land during Isaac’s day, Isaac started going toward Egypt and as he stopped in the Philistine city of Gerar, the LORD said to him: “Go not down into Egypt...” (Genesis 26:2)

Egypt is where the children of Israel were enslaved and where the first attempt to annihilate them through death of their children took place! (Exodus 1)

Egypt is where the LORD had delivered his people from with a strong stretched-out arm! (Exodus 3 - 14)

Egypt is where the Israelites wanted to go back to when things didn’t go the way THEY thought things should go! (Numbers 14:14)

Plus, the Kings of Israel had some very specific laws from God which included both prohibitions in dealing with Egypt, multiplying wives, and multiplying silver and gold. All these Solomon violated even before he got started good! (Deuteronomy 17:14-20)

Well, it appears that Solomon was looking for **political advantage** himself here! His Dad had been a man of war. Solomon we will see was a man of peace. So he was **CHOSE** this method of diplomacy.

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Scripture shows that Solomon treated the daughter of Pharaoh royally! We will see later that **Solomon builds her a palace (7:8)**, and we will see that her dad gave her the city of Gezer for a wedding present(9:16). **But the unfortunate truth of this marriage was that it set a pattern for Solomon which led to his ultimate personal ruin spiritually!**

So, this was the beginning of **Solomon marrying heathen wives to form alliances with other nations—heathen nations! (Politics!)**

So, we can very well see how Solomon came to have 700 wives and 300 concubines. Solomon made some bad **CHOICES** in this, but we never see where the LORD condoned what he was doing in this!

But we will see that THIS CHOICE of his, as well as his other CHOICES regarding other STRANGE WOMEN ultimately caused his heart to turn from the LORD to idolatry! (Cf. 1 Kings 11:1-4)

The Bible gives us a New Testament principle for today that is related to this! **Believers are not to date or marry unsaved people lest they turn their heart from the Lord! A Believer is not to use dating or marriage as a mission project to get someone saved! The only right thing and safe thing to do is to wait until a person is born again first before you ever consider courting or marrying them!**

2 Corinthians 6:14-15—“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?”

Conclusion

The LORD lets us make **CHOICES either with Him or without Him!** It’s always best to consult the LORD and His Word for our **CHOICES!** But when WE **CHOOSE** our own way, He **CHOOSES** the consequences for us as we will see in Solomon’s life!