

Choose You This Day Whom Ye Will Serve Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Joshua 24:14-15. "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."

This is the challenge of Joshua to the nation of Israel. It was time for them to face life without Joshua being there to guide them and to intercede with God for them. It was their life and they had to decide how to live it. We face the same situation today. Each of us must decide who and what we will serve in the life we live.

There are things that a person must do for himself. No one can

believe for another and no one can obey for another person. If you follow the Lord, it will be because you believe and want to serve God. Others might try to help you and many will pray for you but it is you, and you alone, who will believe and trust God, or will not. What Joshua told the nation of Israel holds true today, we will either serve some false idol, or we can choose to follow the Lord.

The idols of today may be different from those of Joshua's time, but they are idols never the less. Idols receive the service and love that belongs to God alone. They take a person's time and energy, money, and service while causing a person to ignore the God who gives life and blessings. If God only gave life and health to those who believed and served him, the world would be a lot less populated than it is now. God gives time and blessings to us even when we ignore him, because the Grace of God give us time to believe and to repent.

What, or who, do you serve with your life? You might say that you serve no one and will not give what time you have to anyone. Many tell themselves this, but it is not true. Each of us live for something. To many it is for wealth, fame, pleasure, or

something that drives them day by day. If a man lives to make money, then that is his idol. He feels that it will bless him and take care of him. In this life it can be nice to have money, but what about when he goes to where his money is not good? It was asked about a rich man when he died, "How much did he leave?" The lawyer replied, "He left it all." You will too, rich or poor, what you have will be here when you leave this life.

If a man has chosen to trust God and live for him, then he has a great future to look forward to when this life is over. You see, for the Christian, death is not the end but a great and glorious future that will last forever. It was, and is, foolish to worship, and to live, for some material thing, or things, when they apply only to this life. We have a spirit and that spirit will live for eternity. By the choices we make here in this life we decide where in eternity we will live.

There are only two choices - heaven or hell. Jesus said, "He that is not with me is against me." Matthew 12:30. Some would have you believe that neither heaven nor hell are real. God tells you the truth in his word. Choose God and choose life.

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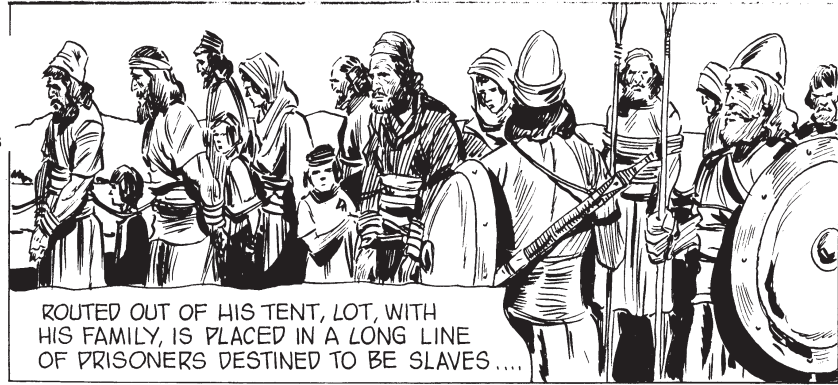
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ABRAHAM'S BATTLE WITH THE FIVE KINGS
INVADING KINGS HAVE CONQUERED SODOM, WHERE LOT HAS BEEN CAMPED SINCE HE SEPARATED FROM ABRAHAM, AND NOW, THIS NEPHEW OF ABRAHAM FACES A GRIM PROSPECT OF SLAVERY....



START THE PRISONERS ON THE MARCH TO OUR CITY!



...BUT IT IS NOT TOO MUCH LATER THAT A FUGITIVE FROM SODOM REACHES ABRAHAM'S CAMP....



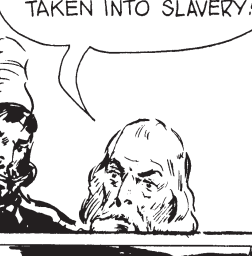
WE MUST HELP THIS MAN FOR HE IS IN SORE DISTRESS!



...AND TELLS ABOUT THE DISASTER AT SODOM....



...AND THY NEPHEW LOT AND ALL THAT IS HIS HAS ALSO BEEN TAKEN INTO SLAVERY!



ABRAHAM IS DISTRAUGHT! LOT WAS CAMPING AT SODOM ONLY BECAUSE ABRAHAM INSISTED THEY SEPARATE FOR THE GOOD OF THE HERDS! NOW HE SUMMONS ALL HIS TRAINED SERVANTS - THREE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEEN STRONG - AND ARMS EVERY ONE OF THEM!



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