

September 22, 2022

Choices Matter

Shalom,

You are standing today, all of you, before Adonai your God—the heads of your tribes, your elders, your officials, all the men of Israel,... (Deuteronomy 29:9 TLV)

*Beware in case there is among you a man or woman, or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from Adonai our God to go serve the gods of those nations. **Beware in case there is among you a root producing poison and bitter fruit.** (Deuteronomy 29:17 TLV)*

Jesus seemed to have been describing people living in this day when He taught concerning the parable of the sower and the seed, especially when referring to seed planted among thorns.

And others are the ones sown among the thorns. They have heard the Word; but the worries of the world, the seduction of wealth, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the Word, and it becomes unfruitful. (Mark 4:18-19 TLV)

The Portion called **Nitzavim** or “**You are standing**” in **Deuteronomy 29:9–30:20** gives us the life-giving instructions of YHWH to all His people. All believers in Yeshua are included as those who are grafted into the commonwealth of Israel through trust. **By faith, we all enter the covenant** He has provided, but there is a warning that turning our attention to the things and teachings of the world will cause us to miss out on the blessing and its benefits. A heart that turns away from the LORD seems to **gradually turn by following a pattern of wrong choices** rather than making one abrupt decision to quit trusting.

These days are days of exciting and prophetic significance. Certainly, we can see events unfolding around us that have been foretold in Scripture. At the same time, there are so many negative things happening all around us that, if we don't take steps to keep our hearts fixed on the Lord and His Word, may strike fear in us. This Torah portion gives us a **very clear solution** to the attraction and danger of worldliness that is an evil plan to distract and divert the attention of believers away from the God and source of all that is good and lovely. Our choices, the momentary decisions that we make each day, determine a course for our lives that keeps us in His life or lulls us into a path of death, **Choose life!**

YHWH is a God of amazing love and grace. He always draws, and even maneuvers us, to Himself, teaching us the right paths to follow, and **warning us of dangerous thoughts**

and actions. His Word and Spirit give us all that we need to make good choices to avoid all the pitfalls that would rob us of being fruitful.

With your ears you will hear a word from behind you: “This is the way; stay on it, whether you go to the right or the left.” (Isaiah 30:21 CJB)

Hearts that drift away from the truth always move toward giving in to the “**idolatrous**” lure of this world into a sleep-like state that just allows more and more complacency. **It is time to wake up to the Lord’s righteousness by deciding to keep His Word in our hearts by saying it with our mouths.**

For this mitzvah that I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it far off. It is not in the heavens, that you should say, “Who will go up for us to the heavens and get it for us, and have us hear it so we may do it?” Nor is it across the sea, that you should say, “Who will cross over for us to the other side of the sea and get it for us, and have us hear it so we may do it?” No, the word is very near to you—in your mouth and in your heart, to do it. (Deuteronomy 30:11-14 TLV)

Those who have known the truth of God’s Word in their hearts and let it slip become increasingly negative and miserable. Many are in this state, battling depression and hopelessness, when there is a simple and God-given way to overcome. **The good news of the Gospel is in full force today for those who will apply it. IT’S NOT TOO LATE!** Just as bad choices produce bad consequence, right choices—choices that pick life, not death, light, not darkness—will open the wonder of all that God has destined you to become. **Don’t give in to distraction and weariness!**

I call the heavens and the earth to witness about you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Therefore choose life so that you and your descendants may live,... (Deuteronomy 30:19 TLV)

Some have become distressed and discouraged by the direction their life is heading. They have a desire to make changes, and even say that they intend to do things to get started, but during all that is taking place in their lives, they become distracted and take the course of least resistance back into old habits, allowing themselves to continue on the wrong path. **Today begin to make good choices** by saying out loud what you intend to do. Follow up your confession with **choosing to focus** your attention on God’s Word and then follow-up by **bringing your actions into line with what you say.**

The right time to make the right choice is now!

Therefore, just as the Ruach ha-Kodesh says, “**Today if you hear His voice**, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness.” (Hebrews 3:7-8 TLV)

Let the word of Messiah dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another with all wisdom in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Yeshua, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. (Colossians 3:16,17 TLV)

Always tender,
Terry

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