

## Who Will Your Master Be?

Joshua 24:15

*"And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua to Israel, just before his death.*

### **The Reality of Supernatural Power**

*In verse 2 of this chapter, Joshua quotes the Lord's supernatural claims:*

- a. *I led Abraham away from the idol worshippers of his old land.*
- b. *I led Abraham safely throughout Canaan-land.*
- c. *I multiplied his seed by giving him Ishmael, then Isaac.*
- d. *I gave Isaac the twins of Esau and Jacob, and led Jacob into Egypt.*
- e. *I sent Moses and Aaron to lead you out of Egypt.*
- f. *I delivered you from the Egyptians at the Red Sea.*
- g. *I brought you into a land of enemies and destroyed them for you.*
- h. *I gave you a land developed and fruitful by others' labor.*

### **The Unreality of Power Beyond God**

*God compares what He has done for Israel to what man-made gods have done. Perhaps the most bizarre thing to God, is that we so easily substitute Him for things so trite and non-existent.*

### **Identify the Alternatives to God in Your Life**

*A quick look at our choices for things opposed to God may shock us to see how small and unimportant they really are. Joshua challenges us that choosing God over these things means the following:*

- a. *Returning to a healthy fear and reverence for God.*
- b. *Returning to a Master-servant mentality.*
- c. *Returning to sincere service.*
- d. *Returning to honesty with God.*

## ***Identify the Masters You've Chosen to Serve***

*What obligations and commitments have you made that deter you from sincerely and honestly serving God? What entanglements or distractions, habits or addictions, have become a "master" in your life? Joshua reminds us we have free will to refuse and choose our "master".*

## ***Set Up a Monument-Reminder of Your Choice for God***

*Joshua set up a massive stone pillar as a witness of Israel's choice for God. It worked! Verse 31 says Israel served God all of Joshua's remaining days, and even all of the days of their national elders. The monument was a constant reminder of Israel's choice for God, and held them accountable. Sadly, biblical history records that the generation after them turned away from God to lude and fleshy worship of idols. Did they truly believe the idols were gods, or did they use the idols as an excuse to indulge the flesh? God knows our thoughts, and the intents of our hearts.*

*If you have chosen to devote yourself to God and His ways, what helps you to maintain that devotion without deterrant or distraction? Is it another Christian, a family member or friend? Is it a daily habit you won't forsake, of prayer and reading the Bible? Is it surrounding and saturating yourself with Godly music, Godly books, Godly speakers, Godly people, Godly involvements, Godly activities, Godly work, etc.?*

## ***Why Choose?***

*Joshua's challenge to choose was his way of teaching Israel they can't have both godlessness and Godliness at the same time. They can't have the indulgences of the godless, and then the provisions, protection, prosperity, posterity, pleasure, and presence of God. Then he reminded Israel that their leader for 40 years, himself and his family, chose to serve God, implying that for them to do differently, would mean abandoning him.*