

Be on God's Side

Dr. Douglas W. Cho

[Exodus 32:25-29] Now when Moses saw that the people were unrestrained (for Aaron had not restrained them, to their shame among their enemies), 26 then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, "Whoever is on the Lord's side—come to me!" And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him. 27 And he said to them, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'Let every man put his sword on his side, and go in and out from entrance to entrance throughout the camp, and let every man kill his brother, every man his companion, and every man his neighbor.' " 28 So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about three thousand men of the people fell that day. 29 Then Moses said, "Consecrate yourselves today to the Lord, that He may bestow on you a blessing this day, for every man has opposed his son and his brother."

Since the day they left Egypt, this was a very sad day for the people of Israel. On this day God was very angry with many Israelites because they had made a golden calf and worshipped it instead of Jehovah God, who had led them out of Egypt. These people witnessed the power of God that was wielded against Pharaoh and the Egyptian nation so that they could leave the land where they had been serving as slaves. They crossed the Red Sea [Gulf of Aqaba] on the dry land after God divided the sea over the gulf and witnessed the Egyptian army, including the Pharaoh, being drowned in the sea. Yet, while Moses was on top of Mount Sinai visiting with God for 40 days, the people of Israel decided to mold a golden calf, calling it the god who led them out of Egypt, making a mockery of Jehovah God and angering Him. When Moses came down from the mountain and saw what they had done under Aaron's foolish leadership, he commanded the people to take sides, those on God's side and those against Him. On this day some 4,000 Israelites who took the stand against God were killed. Their choice brought about a sad consequence.

Although Moses led the people out of Egypt and through the wilderness that is in the western part of today's Saudi Arabia, each person of Israel had to make his/her own choice on which side to take, God's side or those for the golden calf. Today it is the same for all of us, do I take God's side or the side with the crowd? You may think that you are not particularly against God but do not wish to be on His side. Yet, when you decide to be on the other side of God, you have taken the side that is against God. There is no halfway. And that will be so on the judgment day.

When the prophet Elijah faced King Ahab and the 450 prophets of Baal all by himself, he challenged the people of Israel to take a side, either God's side or Baal's side.

[1 Kings 18:20-24] So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel. 21 And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word. 22 Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. 23 Therefore let them give us two bulls, and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it. 24 Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord; and the God who answers by fire, He is God."

On this great day, God proved Himself the Almighty Creator before the people, who then chose to side with Elijah and stand for God. They killed all prophets of Baal, and it was a day of great victory for God in Israel.

Jesus proclaimed that He is the good shepherd that leads people to God and the salvation for eternity with God. He says He knows every soul that is in God's great flock as a shepherd knows each sheep of his flock.

[John 10:27-30] My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 I and My Father are one."

We have an opportunity to choose to be on God's side today. We can become His precious children and sheep of His fold. When we come under the loving care of the great shepherd Jesus, we are safe and will be saved from the awful tribulation and wrath of God in the coming end-times. This is God's solemn promise spoken through His Son. There is safety and salvation for those on Jesus' side.

However, there comes a time during the end-time period when all living people will be strongly coerced to take the side of the Antichrist, the enemy of God. And those who do not take his mark on their foreheads will be persecuted and even killed. What is worse is that God will punish all with the mark of 'the beast' on their foreheads just as He killed the golden calf crowd in the wilderness by Mount Sinai.

[Revelation 14:9-11] Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and the presence of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

This will be a difficult time indeed. People will be under tremendous pressure to be on the side of the Antichrist because they will not be permitted to engage in any business transactions, including buying groceries or daily necessities, unless they have the mark of the beast on their forehead on their wrists. Yet, if they do have the mark, they will be subject to God's wrath. It will be a time of hard choice for all who are left behind after Jesus Christ has removed His chosen people from the world.

On the other hand, the apostle John saw beforehand that 144,000 Jews and a great number of victorious people of all nations will come out of the great tribulation and be praising God around His throne in heaven.

[Revelation 7:9-10] After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

God is making available all resources to help you take the right side today so that you can join the victorious crowd in heaven. We are still living in God's time of mercy and grace. Take advantage of His mercy and grace now so that you can be saved from the awful hard time coming ahead.

" Our God and Father in heaven! We realize that once the seeming period of tranquility is passed, we will enter the end-time period prophesied by the prophet Daniel. We also know that our Lord Jesus will come in the clouds and call up His chosen people out of this world and take them to heaven. The world will then plunge into the final end-time period. And oh, what awful difficult time it will be! Lord, have mercy on the unbelieving, unrepenting people so that they are moved to stand on Your side, on the side where Christ lives with His chosen faithful people. Our hearts ache to see so many around us on the road to their souls' perishing. May those who read this message be moved to come to You and be saved from the coming wrath and tribulation calamities. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen."

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