

## CHOICES

**“. . . choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." (Josh 24:15)**

Regardless of your view on “election” and “predestination”, it is obvious that man is in a different category from animals, birds, and nature.

- All the beasts, birds, and creatures of earth ate green plants (Gen. 1:29). Adam, however, was given a choice and that’s how sin entered into the world (Rom. 5:12).
- All the kinds of animals, birds, and creatures of earth were saved on the ark (Gen. 6:20). Since man had a choice, however, only eight souls were saved (I Pet. 3:20).
- All animals, insects, and even nature also obeyed God to produced the ten plagues in Egypt (Ex. 7 - 11). Pharaoh chose not to obey and brought death upon his nation (Ex. 11, 12).
- During the exodus the sea obeyed God and parted (Ex. 14:21). The people, however, chose to disobey God and died in the wilderness (Nu. 14:26 - 32).
- The waters of the Jordan also obeyed God (Josh. 3:14 - 17). Achan, by contrast, deliberately disobeyed God (Josh. 7:1 - 26).
- The ravens dutifully obeyed God and fed Elijah (1 Ki. 17:6). The people, however, chose to disobey God and served Baal (1 Ki. 18:21).
- Balaam’s donkey had more spiritual insight than he did. Apparently Balaam’s donkey didn’t have a choice, and Balaam did (Nu. 22 - 24).
- A giant fish swallowed Jonah because God commanded it to. But God commanded Jonah to preach to the Ninevites and he rejected God and went in the opposite direction.
- To further prove the point, God got more cooperation from a vine, a worm, and a scorching east wind than he did from His own prophet (Jonah 4:4 - 11).
- Jesus commanded the storm and it immediately obeyed (Matt. 8:26). When Jesus commanded the rich young ruler, however, immediately disobeyed (Matt. 19:21, 22).
- The cursed fig tree didn’t have a choice. It immediately withered at Christ’s command (Mk. 11:14, 20). Jerusalem did have a choice and chose to reject Christ (Matt. 23:37).
- The lions obey ((1 Ki. 13:24); the bears obey (2 Ki. 2:24); the locusts obey (Amos 4:9); the dead obey (Jn. 11:43, 44); the angels obey (Matt. 6:10); the demons obey (Lk. 8:32); the sun obeys (Josh. 10:13); the moon obeys (Josh. 10:13); the stars obey (Matt. 2:9); but man does not. The road that leads to life is straight and narrow and only a few will find it (Matt. 7:14).

The Bible, however, is filled with “good news” for the “few” who choose to obey God!

- The Bride of Christ is composed of “people”, not animals, birds, or fish.
- The privilege of prayer is not available to lions, bears, or beasts, it is reserved for people!
- The power of God to start and stop rain was not given to fowls or fish, it was given to Elijah. Remember! He “was a man just like us” (Ja. 5:17).
- When people made in God’s image choose by faith to become His children, then we become joint heirs with Jesus to all the treasures of the universe (Rom. 8:17).
- Yes! God feeds the birds and makes the flowers of the field more beautiful than the royal robes of Solomon, but birds and flowers cannot lay of treasure in heaven, and we can!
- We didn’t have a choice where we would be born. It is God Who determined the exact place where we should live (Acts 17:26). He did this, however, so that we would seek Him, reach out for Him, and perhaps even find Him. That, however, is your choice to make!