

Place That God Chooses

There are scriptures that tell us that God commands His people to rejoice with him in the place that He shall choose to place His name. Let's read of one such place in Deut.16:11. "And thou shalt rejoice before the Lord thy God, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and thy Levite that is within thy gates, and the fatherless and the widow, that are among you, in the place which the Lord thy God hath chosen to place His name there". What is God telling us to do in this verse and in other verses that are of the same objective? It is important to check the meaning of the words used to get a better understanding of what is being said. In this case, the Hebrew word for place in Strong's Concordance is the Hebrew word maqowm number 4725 and its meaning is condition of the body or mind. Its root word is number 6965 and means to rise, abide, accomplish, be clear, confirm, and continue. Is there anything in verse 11 that suggest going to a town, city or country? It seems that some men have interpreted God's word from their own understanding. It is useful to note at this point that God uses the same word for place (maqowm) in verse two, telling us how to take the Passover. Yet the instruction in both verses would require the same obedience.

Deut. 16:16, "Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the Lord thy God in the place which He shall choose; in the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and in the Feast of Weeks, and in the Feast of Tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the Lord empty:" Why does God use the word empty? When we examine the word empty we find it is the Hebrew word reyqam. It is number 7387 in Strong's concordance and means emptily; ineffectually and is from the root word 7386 and means empty or worthless.

These commands given by God are no different than those of a parent today who wants what's best for their children. If the

children at that time had done what was required and listened to God, then the scripture found in Deut. 4:8, would have come to past. “And what nation is there so great, that hath statues and judgments as righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?” They could have been a light to whomever they came in contact with, but instead they wanted to follow the examples of the nations around them and eventually ended up again in captivity or they were scattered. God had given them a starting commandant of loving Him, not for His good but for their and their children’s good.

Love is an emotion that cannot be forced or ordered. It has to come from the heart. God wanted to raise His nation up as an example of His stature and bring knowledge and blessings to those around them, but they had their part to do. Their part would have been to believe Him and trust Him.

So where did God choose to place His name? Deut. 7:6 “For thou art a holy people unto the lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto Himself above all people that are upon the face of the earth”. And verse 7, “The Lord did not set His love upon you, nor chose you because you were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people”.

God wanted nothing more for his people than the blessings which would occur if the people would have allowed God to be their king and obeyed His laws which would have a positive influence in their lives. But the people refused. They wanted a king that they could see and follow like the nations about them. 1st Samuel 8:7 tells us of God’s response to the request of the people. “And the Lord said unto Samuel, Hearken unto voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them”.

Are Gods ways any different today than they were during the days of the wanderings of the nation of Israel? John 15:16, “Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and ordained you , that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatever you ask of the Father in My name , He may

give you. And in Matthew 11:28, “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”. verse 29, “ Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and you will find rest for your souls”.

The book of Revelation is God’s revelation to the Apostle John and in Revelation 19:13, tells us of the return of Jesus Christ and reads “ And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God”. And John begins his Gospel in the same manner. John 1:1, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God”.

Why did God choose the nation of Israel to bring about the Exodus then and to continue that mercy for His people even today? Exodus 3:7 gives us the answer. “ And the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of My people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows. God wanted then as well as now to be sure His people would learn of His Laws and judgments so they would not go back into captivity.

God chooses those who want Him in their lives and expects us to learn of his ways and to pass those ways on to others. His laws are placed in our minds and that is where He meets with us. He doesn’t want us to be empty of his knowledge and be worthless.

