

# IMPORTANT MOMENTS IN SCRIPTURE (1)

## Introduction

- 1) There is much information in the Bible written in poetry, prophecy, history, biography, etc.
- 2) All of it provides an endless source of study and learning from the mind of God
- 3) It will change one's life – thinking, action, attitude, outlook, hope, etc.
- 4) In the midst of this divinely inspired scripture, there are important moments that reveal vital truths that we should know and understand
- 5) These moments often come at critical times and places in the story of redemption
- 6) Let us visit some of these moments and learn some important lessons...

## I) A SHECHEM MOMENT (Joshua 24:15)

*“But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”*

- A) An elderly Joshua (Josh. 23:1) had reminded Israel to be faithful to the Law of God (vv. 6-8)
  - 1) When they gather at the city of Shechem, Joshua reminds them of their history and why they need to fear and serve God instead of false gods of men (24:1-14)
  - 2) If they reject God, which of the many false gods would they choose (v. 15a)?
- B) Then, Joshua makes clear what he and his house will do – *serve the LORD!*
  - 1) Joshua is not considering, debating, or weighing his options (cf. 1 Kgs. 18:21)
    - a) There is no other right choice than serving God (Deut. 6:13; 10:20)
  - 2) Joshua is the head of his house – *“me and my house”*
    - a) Strong, loving leadership in home like Abraham and Noah (Gen. 18:19; Heb. 11:7)
    - b) He could speak for his “house” – everyone on the same page of faithfulness
      - i) Not achieved by force or coercion, but teaching, example, and love (Eph. 6:4)
  - 3) Joshua and his house were willing to stand alone, if necessary
    - a) No amount of peer pressure would not make him reconsider serving the Lord
    - b) Truth and right do not change depending on how many agree or disagree (Ex. 23:2)

## II) A RAMAH MOMENT (1 Samuel 8:5)

*“Now make for us a king to judge us like all the nations”*

- A) Samuel, the judge of Israel (1 Sam. 7:15), was old and retiring (8:1)
  - 1) He made his sons judges, but they were corrupt men (8:2-3)
  - 2) People gather at Ramah to express their displeasure (vv. 4-5a)
- B) The people's solution: *“make for us a king to judge us like the nations”* (v. 5b)
  - 1) People seek what they desire more than what God would desire (v. 6; cf. Matt. 16:23)
    - a) We should seek *first* the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Isa. 55:6-9; Matt. 6:33)
  - 2) Rejected God's and His ways – thought changing the system would solve problems (v. 7)
  - 3) Ignored the warnings that it would not go well with a king (vv. 9-19)
    - a) When we selfishly want our own way, we will not listen to warnings of God
  - 4) Wanted to be *“like the nations”* (vv. 5, 20)
    - a) A desire to fit in, join in, and mimic the wisdom and workings of men
    - b) Seeds of worldly desire and error had already been sown – idolatry (v. 8)
      - i) They would become like the nations in vain worship, apostasy, and corruption
    - c) Departures from the truth today are preceded by questioning Bible authority, moral carelessness, and seeking “new” ways

## Conclusion

In one moment, Joshua gives a powerful declaration of faith in serving God, and, in another moment, Israel rejected God's leadership to be more like the world. These two mindsets would end quite differently. Which mind is in you?