

**“CHOICES!!!!”**

**A SERMON BASED ON THE OLD TESTAMENT BOOK OF HABAKKUK (2) AND PRESENTED FOR ORLEAN UMC ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2020---(THE FOURTH MESSAGE IN A FIVE WEEK SERMON SERIES TITLED STRONG FAITH FOR CONFUSING TIMES)**

**WE HAVE HEARD IT SAID MANY TIMES THAT OUR CHOICES MATTER..... WE KNOW THIS IS TRUE BECAUSE ALL OF LIFE IS SHAPED BY THE CHOICES WE MAKE. WE MAKE OUR CHOICES AND OUR CHOICES TURN AROUND AND MAKE US.**

AS I PONDER THE SITUATION, I REALIZE THAT AT THE AGE OF 72, I AM NOTHING MORE THAN THE SUM TOTAL OF ALL THE CHOICES I HAVE MADE OVER ALL THE YEARS OF MY LIFE..... I AM WHAT I AM, WHERE I AM, DOING WHAT I DO, AS A RESULT OF THOUSANDS OF CHOICES MADE OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME.

**CHOICES.**

**SO IMPORTANT.**

**SO CRUCIAL.**

**BECAUSE OUR CHOICES MATTER, THE BIBLE  
SPEAKS OF THEM OFTEN. NEAR THE END OF HIS  
LIFE MOSES CHALLENGED HIS PEOPLE THIS  
WAY:**

**"THIS DAY I CALL THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH  
AS WITNESSES AGAINST YOU THAT I HAVE SET  
BEFORE YOU LIFE AND DEATH, BLESSINGS AND  
CURSES. NOW CHOOSE LIFE, SO THAT YOU AND  
YOUR CHILDREN MAY LIVE" (DEUTERONOMY  
30:19).**

**CHOOSE LIFE!**

**AS JOSHUA WAS AN OLD MAN AND NEARING DEATH, HE REMINDED THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL ABOUT WHAT GOD HAD DONE FOR THEM. THEN HE EXHORTED THEM WITH THESE WORDS:**

**"BUT IF SERVING THE LORD SEEMS UNDESIRABLE TO YOU, THEN CHOOSE FOR YOURSELVES THIS DAY WHOM YOU WILL SERVE, WHETHER THE GODS YOUR ANCESTORS SERVED BEYOND THE EUPHRATES, OR THE GODS OF THE AMORITES, IN WHOSE LAND YOU ARE LIVING. BUT AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSEHOLD, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD"**

**(JOSHUA 24:15).**

**MANY YEARS LATER ELIJAH STOOD ATOP  
MOUNT CARMEL AND ADDRESSED THE PEOPLE  
OF ISRAEL THIS WAY:**

**“HOW LONG WILL YOU WAVER BETWEEN TWO  
OPINIONS? IF THE LORD IS GOD, FOLLOW HIM;  
BUT IF BAAL IS GOD, FOLLOW HIM” (1 KINGS  
18:21).**

**FINALLY WE CAN ADD THIS SOLEMN WARNING  
FROM THE LORD JESUS CHRIST:**

**“ENTER BY THE NARROW GATE. FOR THE GATE  
IS WIDE AND THE WAY IS EASY THAT LEADS TO  
DESTRUCTION, AND THOSE WHO ENTER BY IT  
ARE MANY.**

**FOR THE GATE IS NARROW AND THE WAY IS  
HARD THAT LEADS TO LIFE, AND THOSE WHO  
FIND IT ARE FEW” (MATTHEW 7:13-14).**

**EVERY PERSON IS ON A JOURNEY THAT LEADS  
TO LIFE OR DEATH. JESUS CALLS IT A “WAY.”**

**ONE “WAY” IS WIDE AND EASY.**

**THE OTHER “WAY” IS NARROW AND HARD.**

**MANY TAKE THE EASY WAY.**

**ONLY A FEW TAKE THE HARD WAY.**

**JESUS IS SAYING TO ALL OF US TODAY,  
“MAKE SURE YOU ARE ON THE RIGHT ROAD.  
YOU DON’T WANT TO END UP IN A PLACE YOU  
NEVER WANTED TO BE.”**

**THAT BRINGS ME BACK TO WHERE I BEGAN.  
OUR CHOICES REALLY DO MATTER. WE MAKE  
OUR CHOICES AND OUR CHOICES TURN AROUND  
AND MAKE US. NEVER IS THIS MORE IMPORTANT  
THAN WHEN HARD TIMES COME AND LIFE SEEMS  
TO MOVE AGAINST US. WHEN TROUBLE COMES,  
YOU FIND OUT VERY QUICKLY WHAT YOU  
REALLY BELIEVE.**

**THAT’S WHAT IS HAPPENING TO HABAKKUK.**

**HE IS FINDING OUT WHAT HE REALLY BELIEVES.**

**NOW GOD IS BRINGING HIM FACE TO FACE WITH  
THE CHOICE HE MUST MAKE.**

**THE LITTLE BOOK OF HABAKKUK RECORDS A  
CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PROPHET AND  
GOD.**

**IN CHAPTER 1 THEY SPEAK TO EACH OTHER.**

**IN CHAPTER 2 GOD SPEAKS TO HABAKKUK.**

**IN CHAPTER 3 HABAKKUK SPEAKS TO GOD.**

**AS WE PICK UP THE STORY IN CHAPTER 2,  
HABAKKUK IS A MAN WAITING FOR AN ANSWER.  
GOD GIVES HIM 3 INSTRUCTIONS: WRITE, WAIT,  
AND REMEMBER.**

## **1. WRITE**

**“WRITE DOWN THE REVELATION AND MAKE IT PLAIN ON TABLETS SO THAT A HERALD MAY RUN WITH IT” (V. 2).**

**THE LIVING BIBLE GIVES US THIS PARAPHRASE:**

**“WRITE MY ANSWER ON A BILLBOARD, LARGE AND CLEAR, SO THAT ANYONE CAN READ IT AT A GLANCE AND RUSH TO TELL THE OTHERS.”**

**GOD WANTS TO MAKE HIS WILL CLEAR. WHAT HE SAYS TO HABAKKUK IS NOT SOME SECRET, CODED MESSAGE ONLY FOR THE PROPHET.**

**INSTEAD IT’S A MESSAGE FOR THE WHOLE NATION.**

## **2. WAIT**

**FOR THE REVELATION AWAITS AN APPOINTED TIME; IT SPEAKS OF THE END AND WILL NOT PROVE FALSE. THOUGH IT LINGER, WAIT FOR IT; IT WILL CERTAINLY COME AND WILL NOT DELAY” (V. 3).**

**GOD MAY SEEM SLOW BUT HE’S NEVER LATE. HE NEVER DELAYS IN ORDER TO HURT US. HE’S AN “ON-TIME” GOD.**

**HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED HOW SOMETIMES WHEN YOU ARE PRAYING FOR SOMETHING REALLY BIG, THE ANSWER SEEMS TO TAKE FOREVER TO COME?**

**WHEN I'M REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT SOMETHING, IT SEEMS LIKE I HAVE TO WAIT AND WAIT AND WAIT..... FINALLY I GIVE UP..... THREE DAYS LATER, AFTER I HAVE SLID INTO DESPAIR AND DESPONDENCY, AND I'M SAYING TO MYSELF, "WHERE IS GOD? HE CANNOT HEAR ME!" THEN SUDDENLY THE ANSWER COMES.**

**WHY DOES IT HAPPEN LIKE THAT? THERE ARE MANY ANSWERS, I SUPPOSE, BUT CHIEF AMONG THEM ARE THESE: GOD'S TIMING IS NOT OUR TIMING-----AND GOD'S PLANS ARE NOT OUR PLANS.....**

**GOD ANSWERS IN GOD'S OWN TIME AND IN  
GOD'S OWN WAY SO THAT WE END UP SAYING,  
"TO GOD BE THE GLORY!"**

**GOD IS SAYING TO HABAKKUK, "NOT TODAY.  
NOT TOMORROW..... BUT THE ANSWER IS ON  
THE WAY.... HOLD ON..... WAIT FOR IT."**

**HE EVEN SAYS, "IT WILL CERTAINLY COME." THE  
BABYLONIANS WILL BE JUDGED, AND IN THE  
END THEY WILL BE DESTROYED. GOD WILL  
BALANCE THE SCALES OF JUSTICE. BUT HE'S  
NOT WORKING ON OUR TIMETABLE. THOUGH HE  
SEEMS TO LINGER, GOD DOES NOT DELAY.**

**REMEMBER THAT THE NEXT TIME YOU FEEL LIKE  
GIVING UP WHEN YOU PRAY.**

### **3. REMEMBER**

**“SEE, THE ENEMY IS PUFFED UP; HIS DESIRES  
ARE NOT UPRIGHT—BUT THE RIGHTEOUS  
PERSON WILL LIVE BY HIS FAITHFULNESS—  
INDEED, WINE BETRAYS HIM; HE IS ARROGANT  
AND NEVER AT REST. BECAUSE HE IS AS  
GREEDY AS THE GRAVE AND LIKE DEATH IS  
NEVER SATISFIED, HE GATHERS TO HIMSELF ALL  
THE NATIONS AND TAKES CAPTIVE ALL THE  
PEOPLES” (VV. 4-5)**

**THE “HE” REFERS TO BABYLON AS PERSONIFIED BY NEBUCHADNEZZAR THE KING. HISTORICALLY BABYLON WAS GREEDY AS THE GRAVE. THE EMPIRE SPREAD ITSELF IN ALL DIRECTIONS, CONQUERING CITIES, TOWNS, PROVINCES, AND ULTIMATELY WHOLE NATIONS. NOTHING SATISFIED BABYLON’S HUNGER FOR CONQUEST. THERE WAS ALWAYS ANOTHER NATION TO SUBDUE, ANOTHER CITY TO OVERRUN, ANOTHER ARMY TO DEFEAT. IN THE MIDST OF THIS RAMPAGE OF TERROR, WHAT SHOULD THE PEOPLE OF GOD DO? THE ANSWER COMES AT THE END OF VERSE 4:**

**“THE RIGHTEOUS PERSON WILL LIVE BY HIS FAITHFULNESS,” OR MORE SIMPLY, “THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”**

**THE REST OF CHAPTER 2 DESCRIBES HOW GOD IS GOING TO ONE DAY CUT BABYLON DOWN. THE MIGHTY EMPIRE WILL BE BROUGHT DOWN AND UTTERLY DESTROYED. GOD CONVEYS THAT MESSAGE THROUGH 5 WOES FOUND IN VERSES 6, 9, 12, 15, AND 19. TAKEN TOGETHER, THEY SERVE AS A FORMAL INDICTMENT AGAINST BABYLON.**

## **1. EXTORTION**

**“WOE TO HIM WHO PILES UP STOLEN GOODS” (V. 6).**

**THAT PERFECTLY DESCRIBED THE BABYLONIANS. WHEN THEY TOOK A CITY, THEY PLUNDERED ITS SILVER AND GOLD. THEY TOOK THE CROPS AND THE CATTLE, AND THEY CARRIED OFF ANYTHING ELSE OF VALUE. THUS THEY GREW RICH THROUGH THE MISERY OF OTHERS. BUT GOD PROMISED A DAY OF JUDGMENT:**

**“THEN YOU WILL BECOME THEIR PREY” (V. 7).**

**“BECAUSE YOU HAVE PLUNDERED MANY NATIONS, THE PEOPLES WHO ARE LEFT WILL PLUNDER YOU” (V. 8).**

**THEY GOT AWAY WITH IT FOR A LONG TIME BECAUSE NO ONE DARED TO STAND AGAINST THEM. BUT GOD SAW IT ALL, AND IN DUE TIME GOD WOULD EVEN THE SCALES OF JUSTICE.**

## **2. ARROGANCE**

**“WOE TO HIM WHO BUILDS HIS HOUSE BY UNJUST GAIN, SETTING HIS NEST ON HIGH TO ESCAPE THE CLUTCHES OF RUIN” (V. 9).**

**THIS REFERS IN PART TO THE WALLS OF  
BABYLON, IN SOME PLACES 100 FEET HIGH,  
STRETCHING AT LEAST 40 MILES AROUND THE  
CITY..... THE BABYLONIANS THOUGHT  
THEMSELVES INVULNERABLE TO ATTACK. THEY  
BELIEVED NO ARMY COULD EVER BREACH  
THOSE FORTIFICATIONS.**

**BUT LOOK AT WHAT VERSE 11 SAYS:**

**“THE STONES OF THE WALL WILL CRY OUT, AND  
THE BEAMS OF THE WOODWORK WILL ECHO IT”**

**(V. 11).**

**MANY YEARS LATER BELSHAZZAR, THE LAST KING OF BABYLON, WOULD GIVE A GRAND BANQUET THAT TURNED INTO A DRUNKEN ORGY THAT WAS INTERRUPTED BY THE SIGHT OF A FINGER WRITING ON A WALL (SEE DANIEL 5 FOR DETAILS). BABYLON HAD BEEN WEIGHED IN THE SCALES OF JUSTICE AND FOUND WANTING. NOW THE KINGDOM WOULD BE TAKEN FROM BABYLON AND DIVIDED BETWEEN THE MEDES AND THE PERSIANS. THAT VERY NIGHT THE KING DIED AND THE KINGDOM COLLAPSED. MIGHTY BABYLON WAS NO MORE.**

### **3. BLOODSHED**

**“WOE TO HIM WHO BUILDS A CITY WITH BLOODSHED AND ESTABLISHES A TOWN BY INJUSTICE” (12).**

**GOD HATES THOSE WHO BUILD AN EMPIRE ON BLOODSHED. OBVIOUSLY THIS APPLIES TO NATIONS THAT USE MILITARY MIGHT TO CONQUER THE WEAK AND DEFENSELESS.**

**IN THE MIDST OF THESE WORDS OF JUDGMENT COMES A GLIMPSE OF A HAPPIER, BETTER DAY:**

**“BUT THE EARTH WILL BE COVERED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GLORY OF THE LORD AS THE WATERS COVER THE SEA” (14).**

**HERE GOD PULLS BACK THE CURTAIN TO GIVE  
US A GLIMPSE OF THE WORLD AS IT WILL BE  
WHEN JESUS COMES BACK. THERE IS COMING A  
TIME WHEN THE “THE EARTH WILL BE FILLED.”  
JESUS WILL RETURN TO THE EARTH THAT  
REJECTED HIM**

**GOD INTENDS TO FILL THE WHOLE EARTH WITH  
THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GLORY OF THE LORD -  
--- IT IS VERY SIGNIFICANT THAT GOD MENTIONS  
“THE EARTH.” WHEN HE SAYS THAT, GOD  
MEANS IT QUITE LITERALLY.**

**GOD IS TALKING ABOUT THIS BALL OF DIRT  
THAT IS THE “THIRD ROCK FROM THE SUN.” HE  
MEANS THIS EARTH WE CURRENTLY INHABIT.**

**THIS EARTH . . .**

**THAT HAD NO ROOM FOR THE SON OF GOD.**

**THAT MOCKED HIS WORDS AND DOUBTED HIS  
CHARACTER.**

**THAT REFUSED TO BELIEVE HE WAS THE  
MESSIAH.**

**THAT FALSELY ACCUSED HIM.**

**THAT PREFERRED TO LET A GUILTY MAN GO  
FREE.**

**THAT HATED WHAT HE STOOD FOR.**

**THAT ACCUSED HIM OF BEING IN LEAGUE WITH  
THE DEVIL.**

**THAT BEAT HIM WITHOUT MERCY.**

**THAT MADE HIM CARRY HIS OWN CROSS.**

**THAT CRUCIFIED HIM BETWEEN TWO THIEVES.**

**THAT WATCHED HIM DIE IN AGONY.**

**YES-----GOD INTENDS TO BRING HIS SON BACK  
TO THIS EARTH.**

**BACK TO THE SAME WORLD THAT REJECTED  
HIM THE FIRST TIME.**

**ONE DAY THE GLORY OF THE LORD WILL FILL  
THE EARTH.**

**ONE DAY EVERY KNEE WILL BOW AND EVERY  
TONGUE CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD.**

**ONE DAY THE GLORY OF THE LORD WILL FILL  
THE EARTH**

**WE ARE NOT THERE YET. IT WILL BE A DAY WITH**

**...**

**INJUSTICE GONE, VIOLENCE GONE, TERROR  
GONE, THREATS GONE, ABUSE GONE, EVIL AND  
PAIN AND SUFFERING AND SORROW.....ALL  
GONE.....**

**A VISION OF A BETTER DAY COMING TO BE  
SURE!!**

**HARD TO BELIEVE THIS TODAY BECAUSE WE  
LIVE IN A WORLD FILLED WITH  
VIOLENCE....FILLED WITH INJUSTICE.... WE SEE  
THE CRUELTY AND INTOLERANCE.....THE ANGER  
AND INDIFFERENCE ----THE SUFFERING AND  
SADNESS.....AND WE LONG FOR A BETTER DAY.  
THERE WILL COME A DAY.....SOMEDAY.....WHEN  
THIS WORLD WILL BE PRISTINE AND BEAUTIFUL  
YET AGAIN.**

#### **4. IMMORALITY**

**“WOE TO HIM TO WHO GIVES DRINK TO HIS NEIGHBORS, POURING FROM THE WINESKIN TILL THEY ARE DRUNK, SO THAT HE CAN GAZE ON THEIR NAKED BODIES” (15).**

**THIS IS INDELICATE, AND IT’S MEANT TO BE INDELICATE. HERE IS GOD’S CONDEMNATION OF THOSE WHO USE ALCOHOL AS A TOOL OF SEDUCTION FOR IMMORAL PURPOSES. WE ALL KNOW THAT ALCOHOL CHANGES BEHAVIOR. A PERSON UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL WILL SAY AND DO THINGS THEY WOULD NOT NORMALLY SAY OR DO.**

**SOME WOULD SAY: “WHERE WOULD LAS VEGAS  
BE WITHOUT ALCOHOL?”**

**WHERE WOULD FRAT PARTIES AND BEACH  
PARTIES AND COLLEGE AND SOCIAL  
GATHERINGS BE WITHOUT ALCOHOL?**

**WHERE WOULD CONVENTIONS BE WITHOUT  
ALCOHOL?**

**ALL OF THAT IS OF COURSE WELL AND GOOD  
WHEN TAKEN/CONSUMED IN  
MODERATION.....BUT GOD PROMISES JUDGMENT  
ON THOSE WHO USE ALCOHOL AS A TOOL TO  
LEAD OTHERS INTO COMPROMISE....**

**INTO PLACES AND TIMES AND ACTIVITIES THAT  
THEY WOULD NOT NORMALLY WANT TO BE A  
PART OF.....**

**GOD WILL NOT BE FOOLED. WHEN YOU ENTICE  
ANOTHER PERSON TO DRINK SO THAT THEY  
WILL LOWER THEIR STANDARDS, THERE WILL  
ONE DAY BE AN ACCOUNTING.....**

**YEARS AGO OGDEN NASH GAVE US THIS LITTLE  
DIDDY: “CANDY IS DANDY, BUT LIQUOR IS  
QUICKER.” THAT’S WHAT THIS WOE WARNS  
AGAINST.**

**VERSE 16 GIVES US GOD'S RESPONSE:**

**"YOU WILL BE FILLED WITH SHAME INSTEAD OF GLORY. NOW IT IS YOUR TURN! DRINK AND LET YOUR NAKEDNESS BE EXPOSED! THE CUP FROM THE LORD'S RIGHT HAND IS COMING AROUND TO YOU, AND DISGRACE WILL COVER YOUR GLORY."**

**WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND. "THE MORAL ARC OF THE UNIVERSE IS LONG, BUT IT BENDS TOWARDS JUSTICE" (MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.).....**

**BABYLON USED ALCOHOL FOR ILLICIT  
PURPOSES AND WE SEE THE RESULTS..... LET  
ALL WHO THINK ALCOHOL IS NOT DANGEROUS  
PONDER THESE VERSES.**

## **5. IDOLATRY**

**“WOE TO HIM WHO SAYS TO WOOD, ‘COME TO  
LIFE!’ OR TO LIFELESS STONE, ‘WAKE UP!’” (V.  
19)**

**THIS SPEAKS OF COURSE TO IDOLATRY.....  
NOW....ONE MIGHT ASK WHO IN THEIR RIGHT  
MIND WOULD BELIEVE THAT PRAYING TO  
LIFELESS STONE COULD MAKE ANY  
DIFFERENCE?**

**PRAY TO THE STONES ALL YOU WANT, BOW  
DOWN BEFORE THE WOODEN ALTAR. WORK  
YOURSELF UP INTO A FRENZY. SAY ALL THE  
INCANTATIONS YOU LIKE TO YOUR “GOD” OF  
METAL.**

**IDOL WORSHIP IS A COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME!**

**IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD.**

**YOUR PRAYERS WILL GO UNANSWERED.**

**YOUR IDOLS HAVE NO LIFE.**

**THE WOOD CANNOT HEAR.**

**THE STONE CANNOT SPEAK.**

**BESIDES ALL THE OTHER OBVIOUS POINTS**

**AGAINST IDOL-WORSHIP, HERE’S THE BIG ONE:**

**IT’S A COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME.**

**GOD'S INDICTMENT OF THE BABYLONIANS ENDS  
THIS WAY IN VERSE 20:**

**"THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE; LET ALL THE  
EARTH BE SILENT BEFORE HIM."**

**SOME CHURCHES USE THIS VERSE AS A CALL  
TO WORSHIP, BUT IT IS MORE LIKE A CALL TO  
JUDGMENT..... THE VERB "BE SILENT" REALLY  
MEANS SOMETHING LIKE, "HUSH!" GOD LOOKS  
AT THE NATIONS IN ALL THEIR FRANTIC CLAMOR  
AND SAYS, "BE QUIET NOW. I AM ABOUT TO  
JUDGE THE EARTH."**

**IT IS A FITTING FINAL WORD FROM THE LORD, AS  
IF HE IS SAYING, “HABAKKUK, DO YOU GET IT  
NOW? I WILL JUDGE BABYLON IN MY OWN TIME  
AND IN MY OWN WAY. THEIR DOWNFALL IS  
CERTAIN BECAUSE I HAVE DECREED IT. SO  
HUSH WITH YOUR COMPLAINTS. I HAVE GIVEN  
YOU MY ANSWER. WILL YOU BELIEVE IT?”  
IN 605 BC BABYLON LOOKED INVINCIBLE.  
LESS THAN A CENTURY LATER THE BABYLONIAN  
EMPIRE HAD DISAPPEARED.**

**WAITING IS HARD!**

**IT IS EASY TO DESPAIR!**

**IT IS EASY TO LOSE EQUILIBRIUM!**

**IT IS EASY TO DOUBT WHAT GOD IS DOING!**

**GOD SAYS, "WILL YOU WAIT FOR ME?"**

**THE WORLD SAYS, "DON'T JUST STAND THERE.**

**DO SOMETHING!"**

**GOD SAYS, "DON'T JUST DO SOMETHING. STAND**

**THERE!"**

**BABYLON LOOKS GOOD IN ALL ITS GLORY.**

**BABYLON ALWAYS LOOKS GOOD . . . UNTIL IT IS**

**NO MORE.**

**NO ONE WANTS TO BE ON THE “WRONG SIDE OF HISTORY.”**

**NO ONE WANTS TO BE SEEN AS A NARROW-MINDED BIGOT.**

**NO ONE WANTS TO BE SINGLED OUT FOR RIDICULE.**

**I CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO BE ON THE “WRONG SIDE OF HISTORY.” ----BUT I REMIND YOU THAT HISTORY IS REALLY GOD'S STORY. IT'S THE OUTWORKING OF GOD'S PLAN FOR THE HUMAN RACE. THE “RIGHT SIDE” OF HISTORY IS ALWAYS GOD'S SIDE. IT'S NEVER DETERMINED BY THE LATEST GALLUP POLL OR BY THE LATEST DECREE FROM THE SUPREME COURT.**

**THOSE WHO LINE UP WITH THE CULTURAL FORCES OF TODAY WILL FIND THEMSELVES OUT OF STEP WITH GOD TOMORROW. THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT OF HABAKKUK 2. YOU CAN SIDE WITH BABYLON AND WIN IN THE SHORT RUN, OR YOU CAN TAKE SIDES WITH GOD AND WIN ETERNALLY.**

**WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?-----TEAM JESUS OR TEAM BABYLON?**

**RIGHT NOW TEAM BABYLON SEEMS TO BE WINNING THE BIG GAME. THEY LARGELY CONTROL THE MEDIA, THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY, THE MAJOR UNIVERSITIES, AND THE HALLS OF POWER. TEAM BABYLON HOLDS SWAY OVER CONTEMPORARY CULTURE.**

**AND GET THIS: TEAM BABYLON HAS A HUGE RECRUITING BUDGET. THEY KEEP SIGNING THE FIVE-STAR RECRUITS BECAUSE THEY MAKE SUCH AN ATTRACTIVE PITCH. THAT'S WHY MANY OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE FLOCK TO TEAM BABYLON. THAT'S WHERE THE ACTION SEEMS TO BE.**

**EVEN MANY CHRISTIANS ARE DRAWN TO THE LIGHTS AND THE SOUNDS AND THE BLING THAT GOES WITH BEING ON TEAM BABYLON.**

**IN FOOTBALL TERMS, IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE STARTING THE 4TH QUARTER AND TEAM BABYLON HAS A FOUR-TOUCHDOWN LEAD. MAYBE SO, BUT THE GAME ISN'T OVER UNTIL IT'S OVER. THE ONLY SCORE THAT MATTERS IS THE FINAL SCORE.**

**PONDER THESE WORDS FROM “*THIS IS MY FATHER’S WORLD*” (VERSE 3)**

***THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD. O LET ME NE'ER  
FORGET***

***THAT THOUGH THE WRONG SEEMS OFT SO  
STRONG, GOD IS THE RULER YET.***

***THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD: WHY SHOULD MY  
HEART BE SAD?***

***THE LORD IS KING; LET THE HEAVENS RING!  
GOD REIGNS; LET THE EARTH BE GLAD!***

**ONE COMMENTATOR HAS PENNED THESE  
WORDS: *“IF YOU THINK THIS WORLD WILL LAST  
FOREVER, JOIN TEAM BABYLON AND YOU’LL  
HAVE A FRONT-ROW SEAT WHEN IT ALL COMES  
CRASHING DOWN.***

***IF YOU THINK GOD’S WORD IS TRUE, THEN JOIN  
TEAM JESUS AND 10,000 YEARS FROM NOW,  
YOU’LL STILL BE GLAD YOU DID.”***

**IT IS TIME TO MAKE YOUR CHOICE.**

**WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?**

**AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE**

**LORD.**

**PRAISE GOD AND MAY IT BE SO FOR YOU AND**

**FOR ME.....AMEN.....**