

Right in the Eye

Part 1—Big King or Little King

- The Unspoken American Dream:
 - I want to do what I want, when I want, with whom I want
 - As long as it doesn't hurt anybody

Joshua-----Judges-----Saul
1380 B.C. (310 years) 1030 B.C.

1. Israel's Cycle.

_____ → _____ → _____

Judges 21:25—²⁵In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes. (NLT)

Joshua 24:14—¹⁴“Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt and serve the LORD. (NIV)

Joshua 24:16-18—¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods! ¹⁷It was the LORD our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. . . ¹⁸We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God.” (NIV)

Joshua 24:21—²¹But the people said to Joshua, “No! We will serve the LORD.” (NIV)

Judges 2:11-15—¹¹Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals. ¹²They forsook the LORD,

the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They aroused the LORD's anger ¹³because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. ¹⁴In his anger against Israel the LORD gave them into the hands of raiders who plundered them. He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist. . . ¹⁵They were in great distress. (NIV)

- If you want to be a part of the culture and _____ your _____, then you can be _____ by the culture and become _____

2. Israel's Choices.

- _____ the Lord
- _____ the people around them
- _____ their freedom
- Israel simply traded _____ king for another, and they were no longer able to _____
- It's always easier to say “no” to _____ than it is to say “no” to the things you _____ for God

Judges 3:8—⁸The anger of the LORD burned against Israel so that he sold them into the hands of Cushan Rishathaim king of Aram Naharaim, to whom the Israelites were subject for eight years. (NIV)

- In our attempt to do what we want, when we want, with whom we want, we simply trade _____

Action Steps . . .

- Identify the Little Kings in your life that are controlling you
- Make a list of what you need to cut out, so you don't miss out