

# Deuteronomy 30:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;

## Analysis

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**See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil.** Moses presents the choice starkly - life and good versus death and evil. These paired opposites represent the two paths available: covenant obedience leading to blessing, or disobedience leading to curse.

The word see (Hebrew 're'eh') demands attention. This is not subtle suggestion but urgent imperative to observe carefully the critical decision before them. The stakes could not be higher - life or death hangs on the choice.

The pairing of life with good and death with evil demonstrates the comprehensive nature of covenant outcomes. Obedience brings not merely survival but flourishing; disobedience brings not merely difficulty but destruction.

This echoes Joshua's later challenge - choose this day whom you will serve (Joshua 24:15). Each generation, ultimately each person, must decide whether to follow God or pursue other paths.

## Historical Context

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This choice was presented to the generation about to enter Canaan. They witnessed their parents' failure and death in wilderness judgment. Now they must choose whether to repeat that disobedience or walk faithfully.

The two-paths motif recurs throughout Scripture - Psalm 1, Proverbs, Jesus' teaching about narrow and broad gates (Matthew 7:13-14).

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. What makes the choice between life and death so urgent and critical?
2. How does covenant obedience lead comprehensively to good and flourishing?
3. Why must each generation make this decision rather than inheriting parents' choice?
4. How does the two-paths motif recur throughout Scripture?
5. What modern pressures tempt believers to choose death and evil over life and good?

## Interlinear Text

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רָאָה	נָתַתִּי	לִפְנֵי יְיָ	הַיּוֹם	אֶת	הַחַיִּים	וְאֶת	הַטּוֹב
See	I have set	before	thee this day	H853	life	H853	and good
H7200	H5414	H6440	H3117		H2416		H2896

וְאֶת	הַמָּוֶת	וְאֶת	הָרָע:
H853	and death	H853	and evil
	H4194		H7451

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 30:19** (Parallel theme): I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

**Deuteronomy 11:26** (Parallel theme): Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse;

**Deuteronomy 32:47** (Parallel theme): For it is not a vain thing for you; because it is your life: and through this thing ye shall prolong your days in the land, whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.

**Mark 16:16** (Parallel theme): He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

**John 3:16** (Parallel theme): For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**Deuteronomy 30:1** (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee,

**Galatians 5:6** (Parallel theme): For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

**1 John 3:23** (Parallel theme): And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.