

Unilateral Decisions

"Now these things happened to them as a warning, but they were written down for our instruction, upon whom the end of the ages has come." 1 Corinthians 10:11

You have a hard time working your way through the exodus narrative without noting the incessant complaining of Israel. Why didn't they decide to split up and go in various directions – the complainers back to Egypt and those who wished to persevere on to the Promised Land? I obviously cannot be dogmatic, but it seems to me that the reason the narrative fails to record such thinking is found in the fact that "the children of Israel are servants; they are my servants whom I brought forth out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God."¹ The decision was not Israel's to make!

The only time that Israel sought to make a unilateral decision – of which I am aware – was when they decided to conquer Canaan after God told them they had to wander in the wilderness for forty years because of their unbelief. As you know, the enemy routed them.

When you become children of God you cease being able to make unilateral decisions based on what you think best. You are God's slaves; you exist to do His will. Even in the myriad of decisions that you are forced to make, simply because you don't know God's will, you must make them in a spirit of trepidation and dependence. As God's slaves, willfulness in making unilateral decisions based on what you want is a quick trip to destruction.