

In Loving Memory of Jessica Horn

“²⁶See (Re’eh), I am setting before you today a blessing (b’racha) and a curse (k’lalah) — ²⁷the blessing, if you listen (sh’ma) to the mitzvot of Adonai your God that I am commanding you today, ²⁸but the curse, if you do not listen (sh’ma) to the mitzvot of Adonai your God, but turn from the way I am commanding you today, to go after other gods you have not known” (Deut. 11:26-28)

¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and good, and death and evil. ¹⁶What I am commanding you today is to love Adonai your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His mitzvot, statutes and ordinances. Then you will live and multiply, and Adonai your God will bless you in the land you are going in to possess. (Deut. 30:15-16)

At creation, God gave mankind two precious gifts. (1) He gave man and woman *free moral agency* which includes the ability to choose between life & good and death & evil. Unfortunately, Adam and Eve chose sin and death. God respected their choice and from that time onward limited His ability to interfere in the affairs of mankind. Yes, God is sovereign. In His Sovereignty, He chose to give you and me the right and ability to decide between good and evil – choices with corresponding and applied consequences. (2) He also delegated authority (dominion) to man (Gen. 1:26-28). Man was created to exercise dominion (rule) over the earth (Ps. 8:3-8) that was given to man. (Ps. 115:16). This delegation was so complete (and total) that man (not God) had the authority to give the earth to the Evil One, and they in fact, did (a fact that was undisputed by *Yeshua*/Jesus in Luke 4:6-7)

God is NOT in control of the earth and its affairs. You see, control implies responsibility for the outcome (for example: In Florida when you drive a car the State of Florida holds you, the driver, responsible for whatever happens while you drive the car). In other words, God is Sovereign, but He is NOT in control. He is the owner of the earth, but we are the lessee (which is expiring soon). Control is governing through manipulative power that forces people and circumstances to conform to the will of the one in control in order to produce the desired outcome. Therefore, control eliminates free will and only recognizes the will of the one in control.

Instead, upon recovering authority over the earth in *Yeshua’s* sacrifice at the cross after the Resurrection, *Yeshua* declared that He had ALL authority and immediately delegated that authority to us, His Body, while recognizing the Will and Choices of His subordinates. God does not control anyone! Instead, He always honors everybody’s will (even if it is not what God wants).

God wants your FREE WILL LOVE, which is more precious to Him than the presence of evil. Everything in the affairs of mankind is a consequence of choices made by free moral agents.

Justice on the earth can be summarized by the following chart. Everyone is aware and can correctly discern the presence of injustice.

FOUR POTENTIAL POSITIONS REGARDING RESPONSIBILITY AND JUSTICE

Questions: 4 Positions	Is God Responsible?	Is This Just?	Who Believes This?
1.	Yes	Yes	Muslims and many Christians
2.	Yes	No	Unbelievers
3.	No	Yes	Sadists
4.	No	No	Covenant Believers

Satan's strategy is to create disappointment in God because of injustice. He wants to make God look random when in fact Gd is thoroughly consistent. He does this by attempting for us to relate to God by works and not by His Word. The longer we walk with God, the more entitled we feel (I deserve such and such). Satan also wants us to embrace a victim mentality.

Today we are gathered to pay our last respects to a modern-day heroine, Jessica Horn. According to her mother Annalisa: "Jessica was not always the easiest person to get along with. But she was generous to a fault. Jessica was going to do what Jessica was going to do. And while having many struggles, she could be the sweetest or the meanest. Somehow, she thought the rules did not apply to her. She was quick to help, even if it put her in a bind. She loves her girls, and she loved all children. She enjoyed her job as CNA helping people. Things were looking up for her, and she was happy."

About a year ago, Jessica started visiting *Kol Simcha*. In June, she voluntarily went into the Waters of Mikvah (commonly called Baptism), and I and our KS Leaders got to hear what Adonai spoke to her. She was willing to enter the mikvah waters as Jessica and come out of the waters a new creation – a renewed Jessica. We saw evidence of this as she began to smile and demonstrated that she was achieving inner peace. She attended all the Fall High Holidays, began paying tithes and attended the congregational retreat. By all visible accounts Jessica had found inner peace and had started living again. Annalisa also noted: "She knows the Lord *Yeshua* and Father God. She died doing the right thing."

The ultimate expression of love in Scripture is given by *Yeshua/Jesus* in John 13:34-35 and 15:12-13 and it is simply this: "***No one has greater love than this: that he lay down his life for his friends.***" This was precisely Jessica's FREE-WILL offering. *Yeshua/Jesus* also said that "***whomever loses his life for my sake, he will gain it again eternally.***" In truth, Jessica is in a better place. She chose life and good in what turned out to be her final choices.

If it were you, would you, would you choose life? You were given free moral agency at birth, but you are being asked to trade it for fellowship with the Creator by doing what He asked. Yes Virginia, you and I are always free to make our own choice when it comes to God, when it comes to life, and when it comes to death. He created human life for fellowship with him (recall, Adam walked with God in the garden in the cool of the evening), and as such He always desired to be loved and cherished by choice, and not by force. If He is Sovereign God, He could have chosen differently, but He didn't. Instead, we, as humans, make the choice. I challenge you to make the right choice and like Jessica find your life in *Yeshua/Jesus*.

Let us pray.