

Christ & His Bride

Lesson #7

Elected To ?

March 19, 2025

Truth: The Bible clearly teaches Foreknowledge, Election & Predestination.

Goal: Election doesn't appear to mean to be chosen or elected for salvation or eternal life.

Biblical Election: Individuals or a group are chosen or elected to Service & Purpose.

Throughout church history, there have been two main views on the Doctrine of Election. Many people assume Chosen in the Bible always refers to one type of choice—that of salvation. Many Bible commentaries and even secular dictionaries define ELECT as "the people chosen by God for salvation." This has been the assumed definition by those holding to a Reformed or Calvinist theology since the Protestant Reformation. Is this supported in Scripture?

John Piper: Election refers to God's choosing whom to save. It is unconditional in that there is no condition man must meet before God chooses to save him. Man is dead in his trespasses and sin. So there is no condition he can meet before God chooses to save him from his deadness.

According to many Calvinists, The Elect is one of the most important expressions in the Bible even though it occurs only seven times in the NT.

Matt 24:24; Mark 13:22; Rom 11:7; Col 3:12; I Tim 5:21; II Tim 2:10; II John 1

Without the definite article, the words elect or election occur another sixteen times in the NT. Other words which convey the idea of election or selection [choose; chosen] occur 37x in NT. The Greek words are *eklego* [I choose or I elect], *eklektos* [elect], *ekloge* [election], *proorizo* [I predestine], *haireo* [I choose], *tasso* [I appoint, place], and *horizo* [I appoint, determine]. A leading Calvinist, has an article in which he states: "Those 7 words occur 76x in the NT. He says the majority of references to election or choosing in the NT do not concern election to eternal life. He states only 36 of the 76 references refer to election to eternal life.

- A. Nine of his 36 are found in the Synoptic Gospels and refer to Israel, God's chosen people. [Matt 22:14; 24:22, 24, 31; Mark 13:20 (twice), 22, 27; Luke 18:7].
 - o Those have nothing to do with individuals or a group's being chosen to eternal life.
- B. Three examples are found in Acts. One refers to Israel [Acts 13:17]. One refers to Paul as God's chosen vessel [Acts 9:15]. One does not refer to election at all [Acts 13:48].

The Foreknowledge view teaches that God, through His omniscience, knows those who will in the course of time choose of their own free will to place their faith and trust in Jesus Christ for their salvation.

Foreknew #4267 proginóskó = to know beforehand; have knowledge of something before it happens or to have foreknowledge. In the New Testament, it is often used in the context of God's omniscience and His divine plan, indicating His knowledge of events or individuals before they come into existence or before they occur.

- Is linked to God's plan and purpose for history.
- Is related to God's predetermined plan that unfolds in the future.

Examples of foreknowledge in the Bible:

- God knew Joseph's brothers would sell him into slavery, but this would lead to the salvation of his family.
- God knew Christ would be crucified, and that He would be raised from the dead.
- God knew the prophets would speak of the coming Messiah.
- God knew kingdoms would rise and fall, as revealed through Daniel.

God's Foreknowledge Of Your Salvation

Rom. 8:28-29 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.

²⁹ For whom He did foreknow [proginóskó], He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

I Pet. 1:2a *Elect According To The Foreknowledge Of God The Father,*

Rogers: Our election is based upon God's foreknowledge. "To foreknow" does not mean "to cause." Foreknowledge does not mean: God has chosen some for Hell and others for Heaven.

Wiersbe: Election In The Bible Is Never A Lost Person Being Chosen To Be Saved or A Lost Person Being Chosen To Not Be Saved.

If the 'elect' were chosen and predestined for heaven, before the foundation of the world, what exactly are they saved from if Hell was never going to be their destination?

- Hell was made for the devil and his angels.

Matt. 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand,

Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Consider: Hell is not full of people whom Jesus Christ rejected.

Hell is full of people who rejected Jesus Christ.

Belief: God does not choose which people will receive eternal life and which ones will not.

God chooses which people will have a prominent role in helping to move forward His plan for this world. God chooses certain people and groups of people to perform certain tasks in this world so He can accomplish part of His plan in and through them.

- In other words, Election Is Not To Eternal Life, but to Service & Purpose.

Jesus the Premier Elect One Christ is the Chosen One of God

Does this mean Jesus was chosen by God to sovereignly receive the free gift of eternal life from God? Of course not! Jesus is eternal life [John 1:4-5; 14:6; I John 5:11-12].

- Yet Jesus was elected by God from all eternity. What for?

God chose Jesus, not to be the recipient of regeneration [salvation, eternal life],

but to serve a purpose and fulfill a role in God's plan of redemption.

Isa. 42:1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; Mine Elect, in whom my soul delighteth;

I have put My spirit upon Him: He shall bring forth judgment [justice] to the Gentiles.

Elect: #972 bachir [Hebrew]: The term "bachir" is used in the Hebrew Bible to denote someone or something that has been chosen or selected, often by God, for a specific purpose or role. To fulfill this, God chose Jesus of Nazareth as His servant and Messiah:

to rule over the nations; to restore Israel and to draw the Gentiles to faith. [Isa. 49:6] When He was dying on the cross, His enemies referred to Him as being the chosen one of God. Luke 23:35 Now the people stood by, watching; but even the rulers ridiculed and sneered at Him, saying, "He saved others [from death]; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ [the Messiah, the Anointed] of God, His Chosen One. [Amplified]

➤ Chosen #588 Eklektos chosen out, elect, choice, select

The term "eklektos" is used in the NT to denote those who are chosen or selected by God for a specific purpose or for the rendering of special service to Him.

I Peter 2:4 So as you come to Him, a living stone rejected by men but chosen and priceless in God's sight.

"A wide range of texts throughout the New Testament identifies Jesus as God's Chosen or Appointed One." *If being "chosen" means being chosen to service, then Jesus was chosen by God to serve a particular role and function, which He did perfectly.*

What Task did Jesus accomplish as God's Elect One?

According to Jesus Himself, He came:

to fulfill the law and prophets

Matt 5:17

to reveal the Father

Matt 11:27

to serve as a ransom for many

Matt 20:28

to preach

Mark 1:38

to call sinners to repentance

Mark 2:17

to proclaim freedom for captives, give sight to the blind, and proclaim the year of God's favor

Luke 4:18-19

to preach the good news of the kingdom of God

Luke 4:43

to save the world

John 3:17; Luke 19:10

to give life

John 10:10, 28

to do the will of the Father

John 6:38

to bring judgment

John 9:39

to share the words of the Father

John 17:8

to testify to the truth

John 18:37

Various New Testament authors confirm all of these, and additionally say that Jesus came

to destroy Satan's power and works

Heb 2:14; I John 3:8

to take away sin

I John 3:5

to taste death for everyone

Heb 2:9

and to become a high priest

Heb 2:17

This is a significant list, and they reveal that the election of Jesus as God's Messiah was not an election to eternal life, but an election to service and purpose.

God chose Jesus of Nazareth as his servant and Messiah:

To rule over the nations, to restore Israel, to draw the Gentiles to faith, Isa. 49:6
and to die as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. Isa. 53

At Jesus' baptism, the Father affirmed Jesus was the chosen Messiah.

Luke 9:35 NASB Then a voice came out of the cloud, saying,

"This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!"

Chosen #1586 eklegó In the New Testament, it is frequently used to describe God's sovereign choice or election of individuals or groups for a specific purpose or destiny.

properly, to select (choose) out of, by a highly deliberate choice with a definite outcome

The Greek word for "elect" is "eklektos," which means to be chosen or selected, appears 23 times in the Greek New Testament.

In the Bible, individuals and groups are described as "elect" or "chosen" meaning God selected them for specific purposes or roles in His plan, whether for service, or to fulfill a particular mission.

In many contexts, God's choices are in fact very different, depending on His purposes, plans and goals at a given time. Here are some examples:

A. God Chose Abraham to be the father of many nations and a model of faith. [Gen. 12:1-3]

Chosen to be the instrument through which God would bless all the nations of the world.

²And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: ³ And I will bless them that bless thee and curse him that curseth thee:

and In Thee Shall All Families Of The Earth Be Blessed.

B. God's choice of Jacob who became Israel was not to the neglect of the other nations of the world. Father of the 12 tribes of Israel. Ancestor of the Messiah

C. God Chose Moses To Lead Israel:

Ps. 106:23 Therefore he said that He would destroy them, had not Moses his chosen

stood before Him in the breach, to turn away His wrath, lest He should destroy them.

Question: Does God again choose one for the benefit of many like He chose Abram?

D. God Chose Israel As His Chosen People For A Special Purpose.

By His grace, God rescued and chose the Jews to be His people by means of the Sinai covenant.

God's Election of Israel: Ex. 19:3-6 And Moses went up unto God, and the Lord called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.

- God did not choose Israel to the neglect of the other nations. [chose 1 to benefit many]
- They were to represent Him in the world by reflecting His glory.

Deut. 7:6 For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be His people, His treasured possession.

Kingdom of Priests: The role of a priest is to mediate or restore the relationship between two parties. In this example, who are the two parties?

The only other characters in the story at this point are God and the nations.

➤ Again, God chooses one out of the many, so that the many would be blessed.

Israel is chosen for a purpose. They are called to display who God is to all the nations, so that all would come to know and worship the one true God.

God chose the nation of Israel: to be the seed through which His Messiah and the message of redemption for all the nations would come.

To worship only God

To proclaim God's truth to the world

To be a model nation that demonstrates God's way of life

To demonstrate God's character to the world

Israel is in the perfect position to reveal God to the nations. They have seen and experienced God's power and rescue for themselves. Yet God's people continually fail at their task by worshiping other gods and participating in injustice and oppression

Note: "Chosen" in these passages refers to the nation and not to any individual in the nation. As is clear from the story in Exodus, many in Moses' time were not faithful to God.

They rejected Him by worshipping the golden calf and so God rejected them. The nation as a whole was still chosen, though not all individuals in the nation were truly God's people.

The apostle Paul understood this well. Referring to the Jews, he wrote:

Rom. 11:28 As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake;

but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs....

Wiersbe: The Jewish people are "enemies" to the believing Gentiles because of their hostile attitude toward the Gospel. But to God, the Jewish people are "beloved for the fathers' sakes." God will not break His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

E. God Chose The Levites To Minister In The Temple:

Deut. 18:5 For the Lord thy God hath chosen him [Levites] out of all thy tribes, to stand to minister in the name of the Lord, him and his sons forever.

F. God Chose Certain Kings to Rule Israel.

I Kings 8:16 ".... I have chosen David to rule my people Israel." Also to be a type of Jesus.

I Chron. 28:5 "Of all my sons—and the Lord has given me many—he has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel."

G. He chose Jerusalem to be the worship center for Israel:

II Chron. 6:6 But now I have chosen Jerusalem for my Name to be there, and I have chosen David to rule my people Israel.'

H. He chose prophets to speak His word to the people.

Jer. 1:5 Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.

I. God chose Mary to bring this Savior into the world

Luke 1: 30-31, 38 & the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, & bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus.
³⁸And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.

In all these examples God chose a person, group of people, or place to fill a role in carrying out a plan. They all refer to an "election" since God singled out someone or something for a specific purpose. It doesn't necessarily mean all of the chosen people were saved or even lived righteously. Though many of them were God's people, some were not, as in the case of King Cyrus of Persia whom God chose to permit the Jewish people in Babylon to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple.

Isa. 44:28 That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid. Cyrus is called "the Lord's anointed" in Isa. 45:1.

- Scripture suggests a divine purpose and blessing for Cyrus' actions.
- The focus is on Cyrus's actions and their impact on the Jewish people, rather than on his personal spiritual state.
- It is a recognition of his role as a tool in God's plan, without necessarily implying his salvation in a theological sense.

Election Is To Service, Not To Eternal Life.

While all who have eternal life are elect, not all the elect have eternal life. God raises up whom He wills to perform tasks He desires so they will accomplish His plan and purposes in this world. With this central idea in mind, look at several key texts from Scripture that reveal this truth.
Matt. 20:16b; Matt. 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

Jesus clearly indicates that while many are called, only few are chosen.

Reminder: The election of God is not to eternal life,

but to a role and purpose within God's plan for the world.

Think of God's calling: An invitation to participate with Him in what He is doing in the world. God issues a general call to everybody but only chooses those who respond to the call and indicate a willingness to serve Him in this world.

God can also individually select certain people to serve Him in specific ways.

Reminder: Jesus is not referring to the calling or election of some to eternal life.

He is teaching the consistent Biblical message that while God desires that all people will serve Him, not all do.

So God chooses to work with those who participate with Him in what He is doing in the world. This is exactly the truth taught in the context by the parable of the workers in the vineyard [Matt. 20:1-15]. The vineyard owner needs workers to harvest his grapes.

- He makes several different invitations over the course of the day for anyone in the marketplace who might want to work.
- He chooses to hire and pay any who responds to his invitation.

Note: If this parable were about God's unconditional election of some to eternal life, the landowner would not have issued a general invitation at all. He would have gone throughout the marketplace and hand-picked several to be his workers, and none of them could have said "No."

Note: If this parable were about election to eternal life, the fact that they work during the day and get paid when the harvest is brought in, would indicate that eternal life is based on works.

Truth: This parable is not about eternal life, nor the false idea that we have to work to earn it. It is about Gods' willingness to work with anyone who wants to work with Him, even if it is the eleventh-hour workers who have supposedly been standing around the marketplace all day waiting for someone to hire them [Matthew 20:7].

Jesus is showing here and in the following 2 chapters of Matthew, [as revealed by the inclusion of Matt. 20:16 & Matt. 22:14 {Many are called, but few are chosen.}]

- that while many people are called to participate in how He runs the world, only those who show up are "chosen" to do so.

When God invites all to participate with Him in His rule and reign on earth, He does so without partiality or favoritism. All are invited. It does not matter who shows up first or last; all will be welcomed.

God calls all to join Him in spreading His kingdom upon the earth, and those who respond to the call are chosen by Him to accomplish specific tasks and purposes.

I Tim. 5:21 I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, 1588 eklektos = chosen; elect; used to denote those who are chosen or selected by God for a specific purpose or destiny.

Purpose of elect angels: Worship and serve God	Rev. 7:11
Bring glory to God	Rev. 22:9

God uses the elect angels to carry out His will and to provide ministry to believers. Heb. 1:14
Throughout history, elect angels have been a part of God's plan

- in delivering messages. Daniel 8:16; 9:21; Luke 1:19, 26
- in carrying out judgment Gen. 19:13; Ps. 78:49; Rev. 14:17-20
- in providing encouragement to God's people Acts 27:23

Consider: The choosing or election of angels has nothing to do with salvation or eternal life.

God Never Forces Anyone To Do Anything.

Truth: Although God chooses or elects someone to fulfill a purpose in His plan for the world, it does not mean that the person will do what God wants.

If a person, or group of people, fails to fulfill the purpose for which God chose them, it will not thwart God's plan or ruin His divine will. Instead, God, in His infinite wisdom and creativity, simply elects someone else to do what the first person or group failed to do.

When Peter failed to take the Gospel to the Gentiles, despite being repeatedly instructed to do so, God raised up Saul [Paul] to become the apostle to the Gentiles.

➤ Matt 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; 9-11; Gal 2:8; I Cor 15:8

Acts 9:15 But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument

to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel."

II Tim. 2:10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect,

that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

Even though Paul was persecuted by the Jewish leaders and many Jews rejected God, he still referred to them as God's elect. He endured everything, including persecution from his own countrymen the Jews, so they too could hear, believe, and be saved.

➤ *Elect does not mean chosen for salvation or eternal life, but chosen by God for a purpose.*

God desires that those whom He chooses will carry out the task that He assigns them to do, but if they do not, God can even raise up people for Himself from stones [Luke 3:8].

Luke 19:40 And He answered and said unto them, I tell you that,

if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.

Belief: God can choose groups of people, such as Israel or the church, to accomplish His will in the world. Just as with God choosing individuals, God's choice of a nation, such as Israel, does not mean that all Israelites have eternal life. Election has nothing to do with eternal life.

God can choose all Israel to perform a certain task in this world without requiring that all Israelites have eternal life.

Billy Graham's response: Does God choose the people who will be saved?

Many people build a personal belief in God based on one verse. The truth is that God's message of salvation is for all people. Christ died for the sins of the whole world [John 3:16].

"Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" [Romans 10:13]. God our Savior

"desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" [I Tim. 2:4].

This word "whoever" is a wonderfully big word; it speaks of the grace of God and His invitation that extends to all people: "For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him" [Romans 10:12].

The study of Scripture is important. When the Bible says, [Ps. 119:160] "Thy word is true from the beginning; and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth forever,"

it is vital to understand that the Bible does not contradict itself but interprets itself.

The Bible teaches in James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow.

For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appears for a little time, and then vanishes away.

➤ Every cemetery testifies to this fact.

This is why God calls out to the nations of the world to get right with Him. History will someday come to an end, rendering the world's system dominated by evil a total failure.

Wickedness in every form will cease.

It will be a glorious day when He comes to bring peace to the "whosoever."