



In Part 3: To Be In or Not to Be In... That is the Question

Ephesians 1: 3-6

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. Ephesians 1:3-6

### **The Goal of the Argument Today:**

That The Bible clearly teaches that “God chooses” and that the concept of Him choosing is a central motif in the Bible and not merely some subtle or vague underlying thought rarely found in Scripture.

## Understanding The Reality That “He Chose Us”.

1. Lay aside your own predisposition (as best as you can) toward how you think God made the world, and how everything happens.

2. Begin With God.

He is the creator, author, architect and supreme ruler over all.

He is Almighty: It is His world and creation. Hence, it is His PLAN we live by and under.

Who He is, His nature and character must be the full consideration of understanding these doctrines. Who He is dictates our understanding and how all this makes sense.

He is Sovereign-“absolute rule”

Omniscient

Omnipresent

Omnipotent

### Insights From Our Focal Text:

When the verb “elect” or “chose” is used theologically in the Bible, it usually has God as its subject.

“He chose us” is exelexato (ἐξελεξατο), the first aorist middle of eklegō (ἐκλεγω) “to pick out, choose,”

So, literally you could translate this: “to pick or choose out for one’s self.”

## Four Significant Theological Realities That Undergird This Truth:

### 1. *Election*—being chosen by God

Eph. 1:4—"just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world..."

2 Thes. 2:13-14—"But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits, to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. 14 To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Pet. 2:9- But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

2. *Predestination*—God’s eternal plan whereby all believing sinners are conformed to the image of Christ

Rom. 8:29-30

Eph. 1:9-12

3. *Foreknowledge*—that attribute of God which provided him in advance with all the facts concerning the elect

Acts 15:18; Rom. 8:29; 1 Pet. 1:2

4. Man’s Depravity, Responsibility, and Free Will

Chosen in the OT:

Abraham

Gen. 18:19-20—“seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord

by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring to Abraham what he has promised him.”

Moses:

Exodus, Numbers,

Saul

1 Sam. 10:19-“And Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see him whom the Lord has chosen? There is none like him among all the people.” And all the people shouted, “Long live the king!” (also: 1 Sam. 12:13)

## His People:

Acts. 13:17- “The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it.

Deut. 14:2- For syou are a people holy to the Lord your God, and the Lord has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.”

1 Chron. 29:1- SOLOMON-“And David the king said to all the assembly, “Solomon my son, whom alone God has chosen,”

2 Chron. 12:13- “So King Rehoboam grew strong in Jerusalem and reigned. Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city that the Lord had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel to put his name there.”



Deut 7:7-“It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples,”

Psalm 33:12- “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen heritage!”

Psalm 105:6- “O offspring of Abraham, his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones!”

Psalm 135:4-“ For the Lord has chosen Jacob for himself, Israel as his own possession.

Isaiah 43:10-“ You are my witnesses,” declares the Lord, “ and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me.”

Levi and the Priests- Deut. 18:5-“For the Lord your God has chosen him out of all your tribes to stand and minister in the name of the Lord, him and his sons for all time.”

David

Jacob but not Esau:

Malachi 1:2-“I have loved you,” says the Lord. But you say, “How have you loved us?” “Is not Esau Jacob’s brother?” declares the Lord. “Yet I have loved Jacob but Esau I have hated.”

## **Chosen In the NT**

Apostles:

Acts 1:1-2-“In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.” (Acts 10:41)

John 13:12-“ I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, ‘He who ate my bread has lifted his heel...

## **The church**

1 Peter 2:4-“As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious,”

1 Thess. 1:4- “For we know, brothers, loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.”

Col. 3:12- Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,”

James 2:5- “Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?”

Matt. 22:11-“many are called by few are chosen”

Paul-Acts 9:15-“But the Lord said to him, “Go, for who is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”

Rufus-Rom. 16:13 “Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also his mother, who has been a mother to me as well.”

## **What Encouragement This Truth Brings:**

It steals away all our pride. We can boast in no one except God

It is the highest view of God imaginable

It gives us the greatest reason to go and show the world the greatness of the gospel.

i.e. that God is letting sinful wretched people know him and be justified by Him!