

“What the Bible Says about Election”

Selected Scriptures

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“Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many had been appointed to eternal life believed” (Acts 13:48)

1. The Definition of Election

- A. The act or decree of God before creation in which God chooses some people for salvation or some other holy purpose, not on account of any foreseen merit in them, but only because of God’s sovereign mercy and good pleasure.
- B. What God chooses to do before He does it.

2. The Distortion of Election

- A. It is not fatalism/determinism
- B. It is not hyper-Calvinism
- C. It is not the gospel
- D. It is not “knowing in advance”

3. The Biblical Proof of Election

- A. Abram (Genesis 12:1-3)
- B. Jacob (Romans 9:10-13)
- C. Pharaoh (Romans 9:14-24)
- D. Jesus (John 5:21; 6:37; 13:18; 15:16)
- E. Paul (Acts 13:48; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14)

4. The Candidates of Election

- A. Angels (1 Timothy 5:21)
- B. Israel (Deuteronomy 7:6-7)
- C. Believers (1 Peter 1:1)
- D. Jesus (1 Peter 1:19-20)

5. The Basis of Election

- A. God is omnipotent (Revelation 1:8)
- B. God is omniscient (Ephesians 1:8)
- C. God is sovereign (Psalm 115:3; Isaiah 46:9-10; Ephesians 1:5, 11)

6. The Mystery of Election

- A. We have limited information (Deuteronomy 29:29; Ephesians 1:9; 1 Corinthians 4:6)
- B. We have limited understanding (Isaiah 55:9; Romans 11:33-34; 2 Peter 3:15-16)
- C. We believe it by faith (Psalm 139:6; Job 40:1-5; 2 Corinthians 5:7)

7. The Motive for Election

- A. God’s grace and mercy (Ephesians 1:4-5)
- B. God’s glory (Ephesians 1:14)

8. The Need for Election:

Man’s total depravity (Ephesians 2:1-5)

9. The Vocabulary of Election:

Choice, foreknowledge, ordained, predestination, the doctrines of grace, Calvinism.