

The Doctrine of Election Part 2

What Election Is!

Dr. Herschel Hobbs states that election refers to the plan of salvation for all people and not simply to the capricious choice of some people and the rejection of others (see Hobbs, *Fundamentals of Our Faith*, pp. 92-94). God's plan according to His sovereign will includes the salvation of all who respond to Him. This plan is based on grace not merit, Mt 20:1-16; Eph 2:8-9. Those who accept Jesus as Savior of their own free will are saved and those who reject Him are lost. God's foreknowledge does not mean that He determines a person's choice.

God's election includes people – God chose individuals to have a part in presenting His plan for the salvation of all humanity. He chose Abraham to be the father of the faithful, Gen 12:1-3. He chose Moses to lead the people from bondage and give them the Commandments, Ex 3:10. He chose David to establish an everlasting kingdom and dynasty of the Messiah, 2 Sam 7:12-17. He appointed Jeremiah as His prophet to announce the coming Lord of Righteousness, Jer 23:5-6. He chose Paul on the Damascus road to be an apostle to the Gentiles, Acts 9:1-19. God elects who He wills to do the work He assigns and often chooses those least likely by human standards, 1 Cor 1:18-25.

God's election includes places – God chose the Land of Israel, Gen 15:18; 24:7. God chose Jerusalem and Mt. Zion as the place where he would establish His name forever, 1 Kin 11:36; Ps 48:1-14. God chose Bethlehem where He would come as Jesus, Immanuel, God incarnate in human flesh, Micah 5:2-5. God chose Nazareth as the city where Jesus would grow to manhood, Mt 2:23. God even chose Assyria and Babylon to be agents of discipline for Israel and for Judah, Hab 1:5-11; 1 Chron 5:26.

God's election includes periods – God chooses the right time to reveal to accomplish, the covenant with Abraham, Law revealed to Moses at Sinai, Kingdom to Samuel, Messianic hope to David, Isaiah, Daniel, Zechariah. He chose just the right time for the coming of Messiah, Heb 1:1-4. He chose to reveal His Millennial kingdom to Ezekiel in 40:1-48:35 and Zechariah in 8:1-23; 21:1-14:21.

God's election includes purposes – God purposes in His heart to save, to call, to accomplish his work, 2 Pet 1:1-11. God's purposes salvation for all, Jn 3:16; Rev 22:7. Whosoever will may come, they are made effective in the lives of those who receive Him and seal as permanent by the work of the HS Rom 8:35-39; Eph 1:13-14.

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