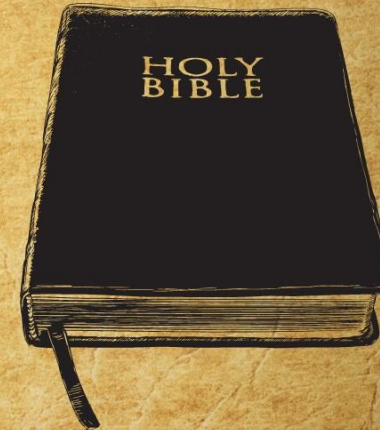


**NEO  
CALVINISM**

**THE  
BIBLE**



★ VS ★



★ THE FIGHT OF THE AGES ★



**Dr. Andy Woods**

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

President – Chafer Theological Seminary

# Neo-Calvinism vs. The Bible

- I. Calvinism's Mixed Blessing
- II. Why Critique Calvinism?
- III. The Source of Calvin's Theology
- IV. Calvin's Manner of Life
- V. TULIP Through the Grid of Scripture**
- VI. Conclusion



# V. Running TULIP Through the Grid of Scripture

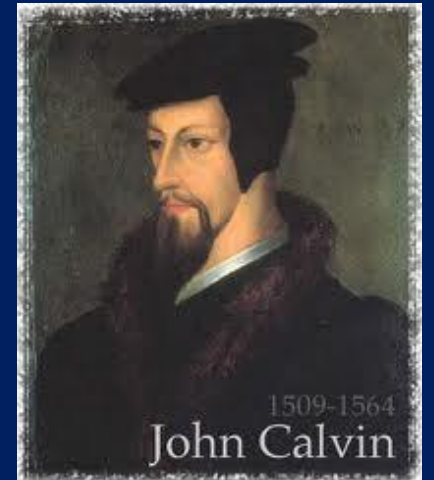
- A. Total Depravity
- B. Unconditional Election
- C. Limited Atonement
- D. Irresistible Grace
- E. Perseverance of the Saints



**T Total Depravity**  
**U Unconditional Election**  
**L Limited Atonement**  
**I Irresistible Grace**  
**P Perseverance of the Saints**

## B. Unconditional Election

1. Divine sovereignty vs. human freewill = a profound mystery
2. Calvinism and double predestination
3. Calvinism's overstatement of Divine Sovereignty





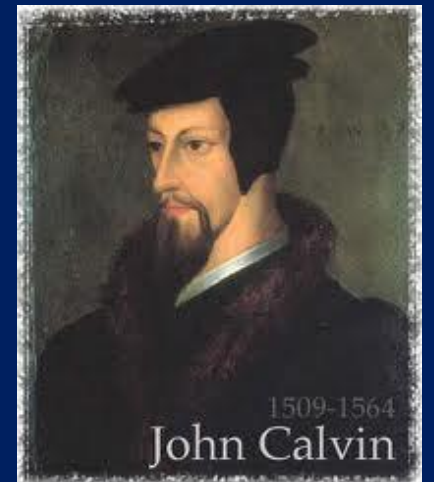
# Chafer Theological Seminary Distinctives:

## ELECTION

"We believe Scripture reveals two clear and indisputable lines of evidence. One line shows God sovereignly choosing His own in Christ; the other shows man possessing the function of volition, able to receive or reject God's uniquely born Son (regarding sovereignty, see Job 42:2; Psalm 135:6; Isaiah 46:9–10; Jeremiah 1:5; Matthew 24:22, 24, 31; Luke 18:7; Romans 8:29–33; Galatians 1:15; 2 Timothy 2:10; 1 Peter 1:1–2; regarding human volition, see John 1:9–13; 3:16, 36; 6:47; 20:30–31; Acts 16:30–31; Romans 10:11–13; 1 John 5:9–13, as well as every command in the epistles)."

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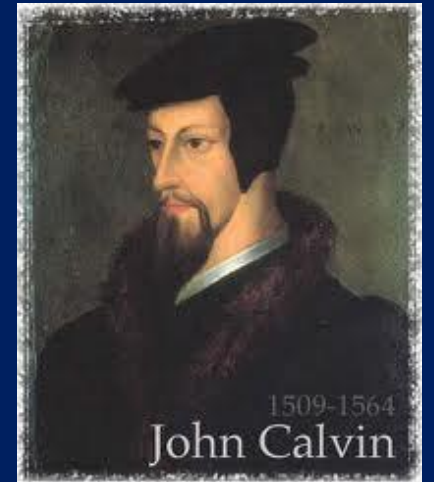
# John Calvin

John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Vol. 3, Chapter 23, section 6.

Calvin wrote: “Now, since the arrangement of all things is in the hand of God, since to him belongs the disposal of life and death, he arranges all things by his sovereign counsel, in such a way that individuals are born, who are **doomed from the womb to certain death**, and are to glorify him by their destruction.”

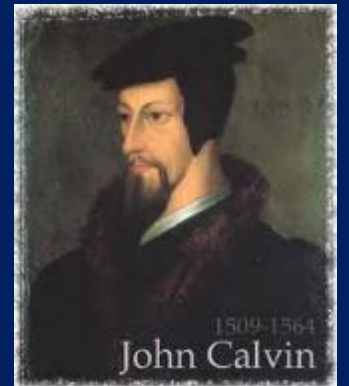
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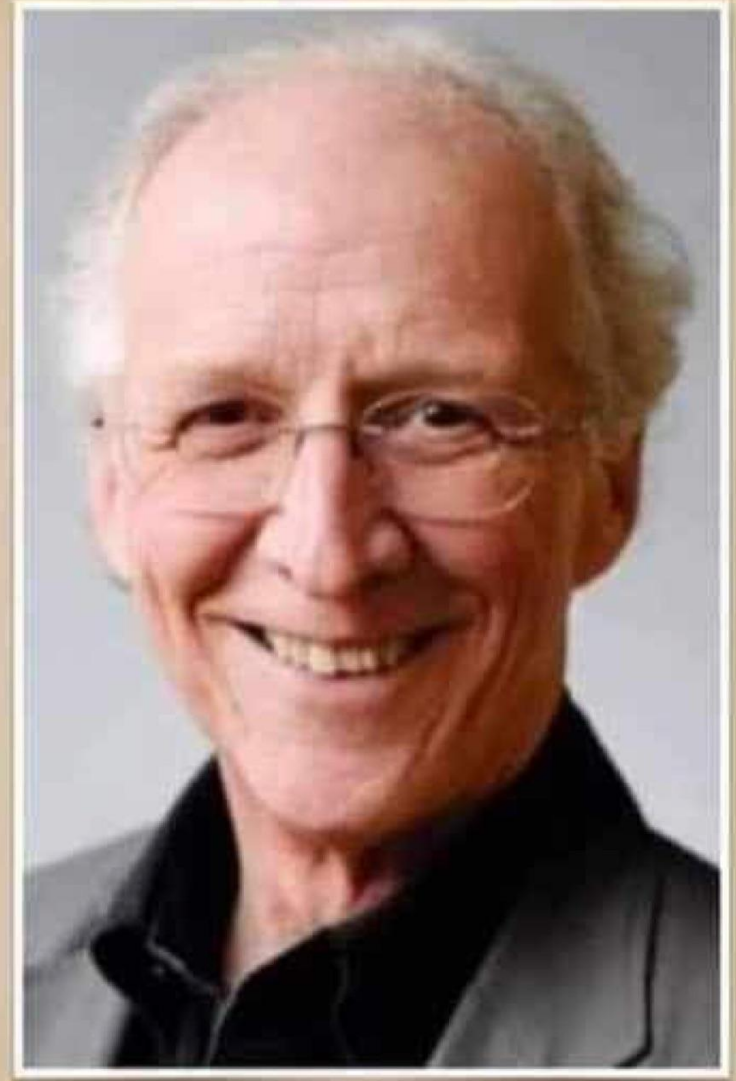
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- a) Omni-causality
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“God’s having even brought about the Nazis’ brutality at Birkenau and Auschwitz as well as the terrible killings of Dennis Rader and even the sexual abuse of a young child...”

*John Piper - “Suffering and the Sovereignty of God” page 42*



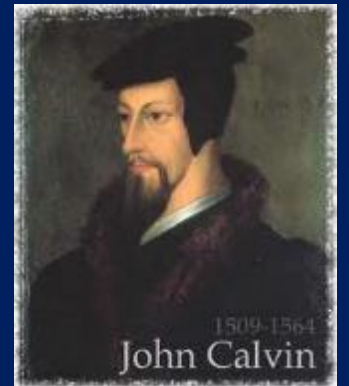
## Mark 7:20–23

<sup>20</sup> And He was saying, “That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. <sup>21</sup> “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, <sup>22</sup> deeds of coveting *and* wickedness, *as well as* deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride *and* foolishness. <sup>23</sup> “All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.”



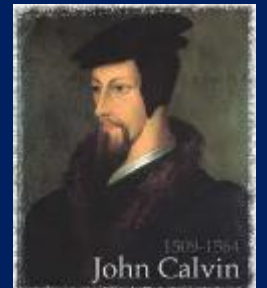
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## b) Salvation is Available to All

- 1) Everyone is savable but not necessarily saved (2 Cor. 5:19-20)
- 2) God desires all to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9)
- 3) Whosoever wills (John 3:16; Rom. 10:13; 1 John 5:1; Rev. 22:17)
- 4) **God commands all to repent (Acts 17:30)**
- 5) God's grace has appeared to all (Titus 2:11)
- 6) God is not a respecter of persons (Acts 10:34; Rom. 2:11; Ephes. 6:9; Col. 3:25)



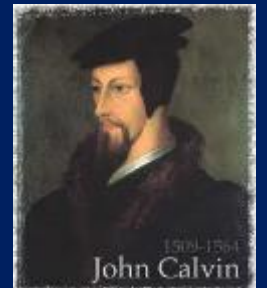
## Acts 17:30-31

“<sup>30</sup> Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent [metanoēō], <sup>31</sup> because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”



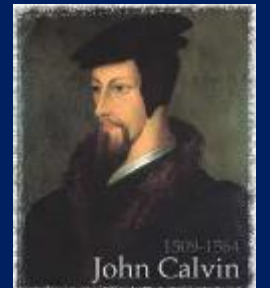
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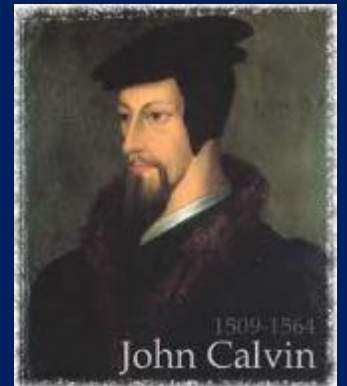
# John Calvin

John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Vol. 3, (Orlando, Signalman Publishing, from the 4th edition, 2009, Kindle edition), Chapter 21, section 5, Kindle location 17221.

Calvin said: “By predestination we mean the eternal decree of God, by which he determined with himself whatever he wished to happen with regard to every man. **All are not created on equal terms**, but some are **preordained** to eternal life, others to eternal damnation; and, accordingly, as each has been created for one or other of these ends, we say that he has been predestinated to life or to death.”

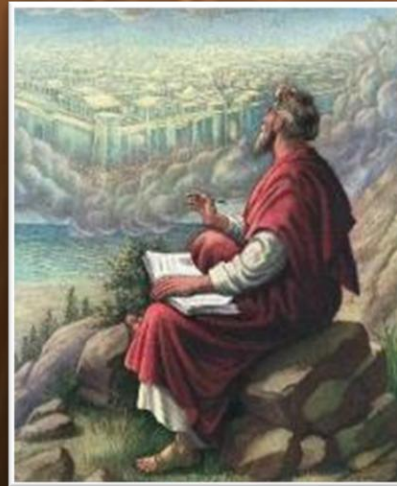
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## John 6:44

“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws (*helkyō*) him; and I will raise him up on the last day.”



## John 6:40

“For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”



## John 12:32

“And I, if I am lifted up from the earth,  
will draw (*helkyō*) all men to Myself.”



## John 16:7-11

“<sup>7</sup> But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. <sup>8</sup> And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin (*hamartia*, singular noun) and righteousness and judgment; <sup>9</sup> concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; <sup>10</sup> and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; <sup>11</sup> and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”



## John 15:16

“You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.”



## Acts 13:48

“When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been **appointed** [*tassō*] to eternal life believed.”

τάσσω

tassō / appoint; arrange



## Laurence M. Vance

“Every Calvinist, no matter what else he believes, uses this verse to prove Unconditional Election. Every Calvinist claims that on the basis of this verse, every person who has ever been saved (Old or New Testament) or ever will be saved (Church age or Tribulation or Millennium) was ‘ordained to life’ before the foundation of the world by a sovereign, eternal decree.”

Laurence M. Vance, *The Other Side of Calvinism*, rev. ed. (Pensacola, FL: Vance Publications, 1999); citing Calvin, Institutes, 345..



## Acts 13:48?

1. One verse cannot be used to undo hundreds of others (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9)
2. Sometimes the Greek word for “appointed”(NASB) or “ordained” (KJV) is translated “wanted” (LB) or “disposed” (REB) in other English translations
3. *Tassō* is used (rather than *proorizō*), which never refers to predestination unto Salvation in any of its other New Testament uses (Matt. 28:16; Luke 7:38; Acts 15:2; 22:10; 28:23; Rom. 13:1; 1 Cor. 16:15)



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## 1 Timothy 2:3-4

“<sup>3</sup> This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”



## 2 Peter 3:9

“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”





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4. The corrupted, Roman Catholic Latin Vulgate mistranslates *tassō* as “preordained.”
5. The context of the book of Acts pertains to the predisposition of the Gentiles (rather than the Jews) toward the Gospel (Acts 13:44-47; 28:26-28)
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## Dennis Rokser

“[It is incorrect to say that]...the Greek verb for ‘believe’ (*episteusan*) is the result of the perfect passive participle ‘appointed’ (*tetagmenoi*). Grammatically, all that the aorist tense verb of ‘believe’ shows when it is combined with the periphrastic construction of ‘had been appointed’ is that the appointing on God's part preceded the believing on man's part. NOTE: the grammar does not prove that one is the result of the other! In order to show that the act of believing was the result of or caused by God's prior appointing, there would need to be a causal conjunction in the Greek text after ‘believed’ (*episteusan*), so that the verse would say: ‘and believed [*episteusan*], because [*hoti, hina, hos, hoste*] they had been appointed to life eternal.’”



## Dennis Rokser

“The conjunctions *hoti*, *hina*, *hos*, *hoste* are all used at times in Greek (most often *hoti*) to show purpose, result, or cause. But Acts 13:48 contains none of these! Calvinists assume that God foreordains certain people (those unconditionally elected to eternal salvation) to receive the gift of faith. If that were the case, then this verse should say ‘and as many as were appointed to believe received life eternal.’”

## Acts 13:48

“When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed [*tassō*] to eternal life believed.”

τάσσω

tassō / appoint; arrange





## Dennis Rokser

“There are no verses in the Bible that say we were preordained to believe. Acts 13:48 simply doesn't say WHY the Galatians were appointed to eternal life. However, since the context of the passage involves human responsibility (v. 46), and it is consistent with Scripture elsewhere, we should interpret v. 48 to mean that God's ordaining must have factored in their faith which He foresaw.”



## Acts 13:48?

7. Contrary to many English translations, the word order of Acts 13:48 in the Greek text places the verb “believed” before the Greek verb pre-ordained “appointed.”
8. In Acts 13:48, “believed” is in the active voice.



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## Ron Merryman

“The verb “*believed*” (aorist tense, active voice, indicative mode) stands first in word order in the Greek text, thus it is emphasized. The statement literally is, ‘And they believed, as many as were ordained unto eternal life’ (a perfect tense periphrastic in Greek). They did not believe because they were ordained unto eternal life.”



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“Simply, they believed; that is, they actively (active voice) expressed positive volition toward the Gospel...‘Believed’ or ‘believe’ is consistently active in voice in its over 100 uses in the N.T. relative to trust in Christ and Him alone. That means the person who believes is actively, not passively, trusting in the Gospel. They are exercising their faith, not someone else's and not a faith given to them...”

## Ron Merryman

“...Contrasted to the ones that believed in the context are those that did not. We are told that *‘they spake against the things that were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming’* (v.45). Again, the verbal voice is active. They were actively expressing their negative volition to the Gospel, so that Paul follows their blasphemies with the statement *‘... you put it* (the word of God expressed in the Gospel he had just spoken) *from you and you judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life’* (v. 46). These verbs also are active voice. They could not blame their negativeness on Satan or any other. Paul did not say that God declared these unbelieving Jews unworthy of eternal life: he says that they declared themselves unworthy of it!”

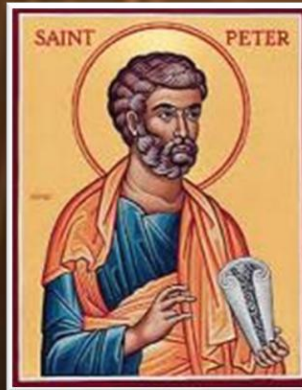
## Romans 8:29–30

<sup>29</sup> For those whom He **foreknew** [*proginōskō*], He also **predestined** *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; <sup>30</sup> and these whom He predestined, He also **called**; and these whom He called, He also **justified**; and these whom He justified, He also **glorified**.



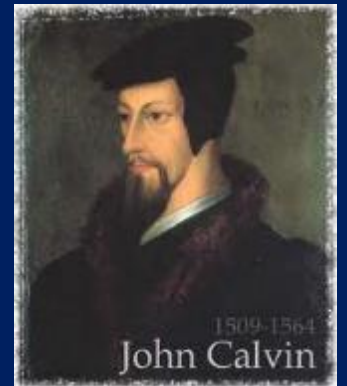
## 2 Peter 3:17

“You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand [*proginōskō*], be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness.”



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# Romans Outline

- I. Salutation (1:1-17)
- II. Sin (1:18–3:20)
- III. Salvation (3:21–5:21)
- IV. Sanctification (6–8)
- V. Sovereignty (9–11)
- VI. Service (12:1–15:13)
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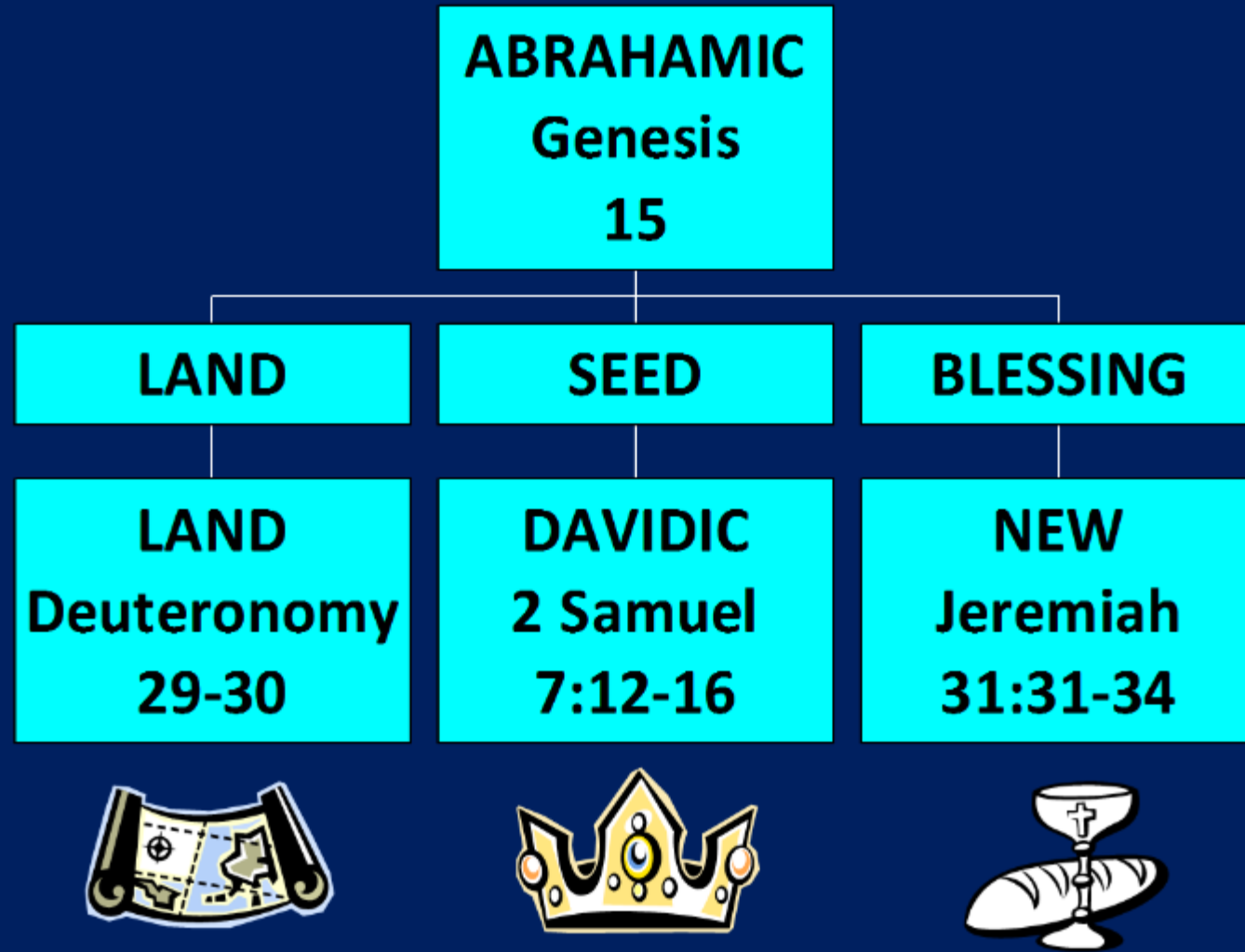
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Where's **sanctification**?



# Abrahamic Covenant



**Unconditional** covenant with a conditional blessing (Deut. 28; Lev. 26)

# Romans 9–11

## Theme:

*How can God be trusted to be faithful to us if He has been unfaithful to Israel?*

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- I. Salutation (1:1-17)
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- V. **Sovereignty (9–11)**
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- VII. Summation (15:14–16:27)



## V. Sovereignty (Rom 9–11)

- A. Israel in the past: elected (Rom 9)
- B. Israel in the present: rejected (Rom 10)
- C. Israel in the future: accepted (Rom 11)



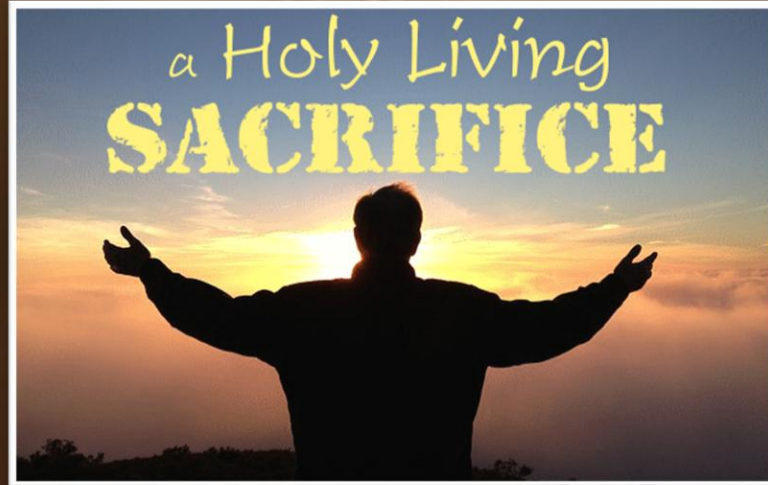
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## Romans 12:1

“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”



## Isaiah 65:21–22

<sup>21</sup> “They will build houses and inhabit *them*; They will also plant vineyards and eat their fruit. <sup>22</sup> “They will not build and another inhabit, They will not plant and another eat; For as the lifetime of a tree, *so will be* the days of My people, And My chosen ones will wear out the work of their hands.



## Matthew 24:21-22

“<sup>21</sup> For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. <sup>22</sup> Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.”



## Matthew 23:37-39

<sup>37</sup> “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather [*episynagō*] your children together, the way a hen gathers [*episynagō*] her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. <sup>38</sup> Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! <sup>39</sup> For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, ‘BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!’”

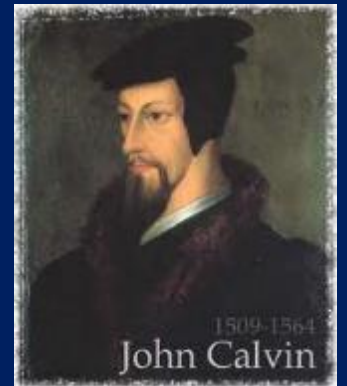


# The Plagues of Egypt

| NO. | DESCRIPTION             | SCRIPTURE      | Egyptian Deity          |
|-----|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1.  | Water to Blood          | Exod. 7:14-25  | Hapi, Khnum             |
| 2.  | Frogs                   | Exod. 8:1-15   | Heqt                    |
| 3.  | Gnats                   | Exod. 8:16-19  | Set                     |
| 4.  | Flies                   | Exod. 8:20-32  | Uatchit                 |
| 5.  | Disease on Cattle       | Exod. 9:1-7    | Hathor, Apis            |
| 6.  | Boils                   | Exod. 9:8-12   | Sekhmet, Serapis        |
| 7.  | Hail                    | Exod. 9:13-35  | Seth, Nut               |
| 8.  | Locusts                 | Exod. 10:1-20  | Seth, Nut,<br>Osiris    |
| 9.  | Darkness                | Exod. 10:21-29 | Re, Horus, Atum         |
| 10. | Death of the First Born | Exod. 12:29-36 | Min, Osiris, Heqt, Isis |

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## John Winthrop

(A.D. 1630)

“For we must consider that we shall be as a City set upon a Hill; the eyes of all people are upon us; so that if we shall deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken and so cause him to withdraw his present help from us, we shall be a story and a by-word through the world.”

John Winthrop, “A Model of Christian Charity,” *Winthrop Papers*, 2:292-95.

# Harvard University



“Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well the main end of his life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life (John 17:3) and therefore to lay Christ in the bottom as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and learning. And seeing the Lord only giveth wisdom, let everyone seriously set himself by prayer in secret to seek it of Him (Prov. 2, 3). Everyone shall exercise himself in reading the Scriptures twice a day that he shall be ready to give such an account of his proficiency therein.”

## J.C. Rylands to William Carey

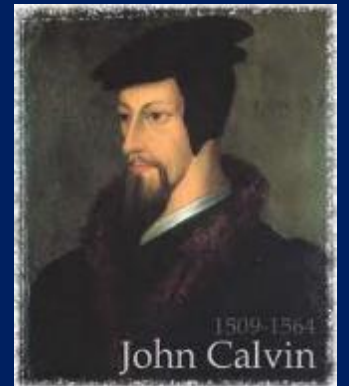
**William Carey**: (1761–1834): "My question to you is whether the command given to the apostles to 'teach all nations,' was not obligatory on all succeeding ministers to the end of the world, seeing that the accompanying promise was of equal extent? Is it not the duty of Christians to attempt the spread of the Gospel amongst heathen nations."

**J.C. Rylands**: (1753–1825) "Young man, sit down; when God is pleased to convert the heathen world, He will do it without your help or mine...you are a most miserable enthusiast...nothing like that could ever be done before another Pentecost!"

Laurence M. Vance, *The Other Side of Calvinism*, rev. ed. (Pensacola, FL: Vance Publications, 1999), 24;  
Kenneth H. Good, *Are Baptists Calvinists?*, rev. ed. (Rochester, NY: Backus Book Publishers, 1988), 73.

### 3. Calvinism's overstatement of Divine Sovereignty

- a) Omni-causality
- b) Salvation is available to all
- c) Election proof texts John 6:44; 15:16; Rom. 8:29-30)
- d) Double predestination proof texts (Rom. 9)
- e) Loss of evangelism
- f) **Loss of love for the lost (Ezek. 18:23, 32; 33:11)**
- g) Babies in hell? (2 Sam. 12:19-24)



## Calvin's Lack of Love for Unelected Lost

“The primary teaching in Calvinism is the teaching on ‘election’ in that the majority of people God created, He did not elect to save nor did He love them. In fact, He hated them from before they were even born. Under the Calvinist view of election, wherein God does not love every human being or desires that each one come to faith and be saved, it makes sense that John Calvin did not have God’s love toward those he saw as his unsaved fellow man. After all, if God does not even love them, why should he? It is this reasoning that would have made it easy for Calvin to justify the torture and murder of people whom he believed, in his own estimation, to be heretics. But the Bible . . .

## Calvin's Lack of Love for Unelected Lost

. . . says that God is love. And He is righteous, true, faithful, and just. Such are fruits of the Spirit as described in Galatians 5:22, and love is the first one mentioned. It is hard not to believe that John Calvin was under the influence of some other spirit than the Holy Spirit. You will have to look long and hard to find anything in Calvin's writings about love. It is certainly not obvious in his manner of life."



# John Calvin

John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Vol. 3, Chapter xi, section 11.

Calvin said of God, “for, (as he hates sin) he can only love those whom he justifies [i.e., the elect].”

## John 3:16

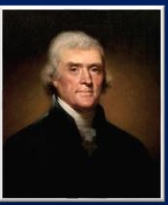
“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”



## 1 John 4:8

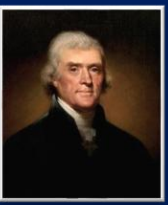
“The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”





## Thomas Jefferson

"I can never join Calvin in addressing his god. He was indeed an Atheist, which I can never be; or rather his religion was Daemonism. If ever man worshipped a false god, he did. The being described in his 5 points is not the god whom you and I acknowledge and adore, the Creator and benevolent and governor of the world, but a daemon of malignant spirit. It would be more pardonable to believe in no god at all, than to blaspheme him by the atrocious attributes of Calvin."

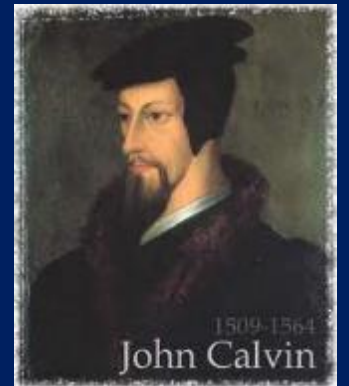


## Thomas Jefferson

"The Presbyterian clergy are loudest, the most intolerant of all sects, the most tyrannical, and ambitious; ready at the word of the lawgiver, if such a word could be now obtained, to put the torch to the pile, and to rekindle in this virgin hemisphere, the flames in which their oracle Calvin consumed the poor Servetus, because he could not find in his Euclid the proposition which has demonstrated that three are one, and one is three, nor subscribe to that of Calvin that magistrates have a right to exterminate all heretics to Calvinistic creed."

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## 1 Timothy 2:3-4

“<sup>3</sup> This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”



## 2 Peter 3:9

“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”



# V. Running TULIP Through the Grid of Scripture

- A. Total Depravity
- B. Unconditional Election
- C. Limited Atonement
- D. Irresistible Grace
- E. Perseverance of the Saints



**T** Total Depravity  
**U** Unconditional Election  
**L** Limited Atonement  
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**P** Perseverance of the Saints