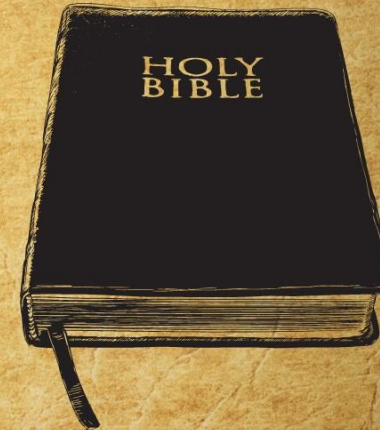


NEO CALVINISM

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

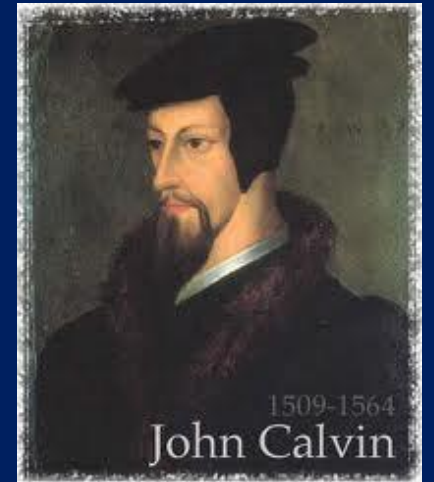
- A. Total Depravity
- B. Unconditional Election
- C. Limited Atonement
- D. Irresistible Grace
- E. Perseverance of the Saints



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





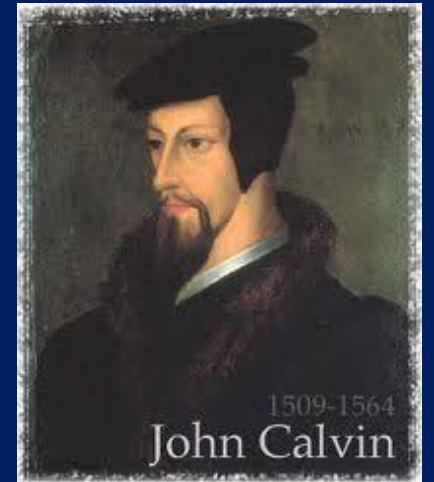
Chafer Theological Seminary Distinctives:

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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3. Calvinism's overstatement of Divine Sovereignty





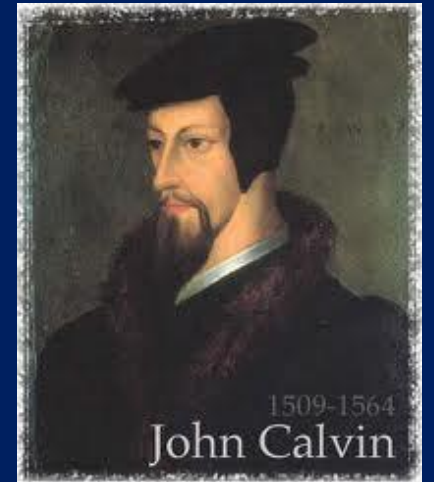
John Calvin

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.”

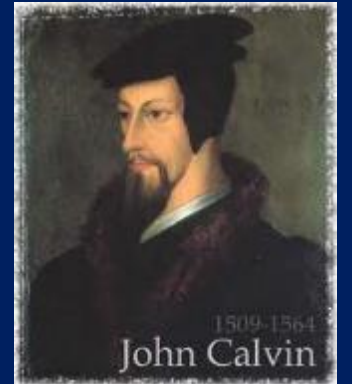
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3. Calvinism's overstatement of Divine Sovereignty

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- 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)



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.”

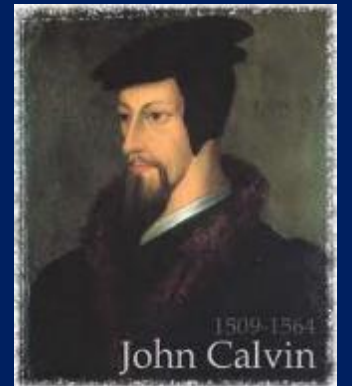
Acts 13:48 (NA26)

48 Ἀκούοντα δὲ τὰ ἔθνη ἔχαιρον καὶ ἐδόξαζον τὸν λόγον τοῦ κυρίου καὶ ἐπίστευσαν ὅσοι ἦσαν τεταγμένοι εἰς ζωὴν αἰώνιον.



3. Calvinism's overstatement of Divine Sovereignty

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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)
- VII. Summation (15:14–16:27)



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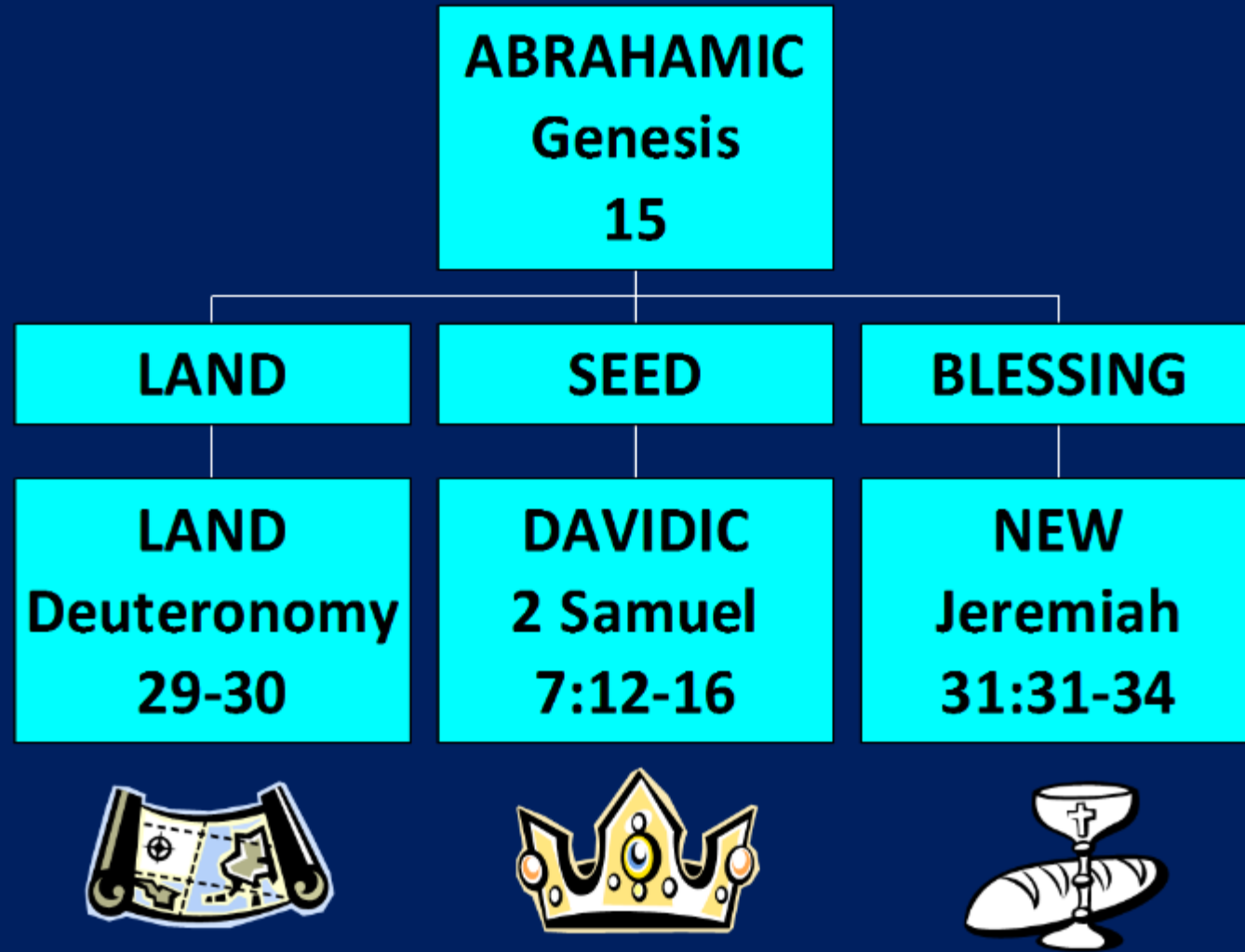
Romans 8:29–30

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

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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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)



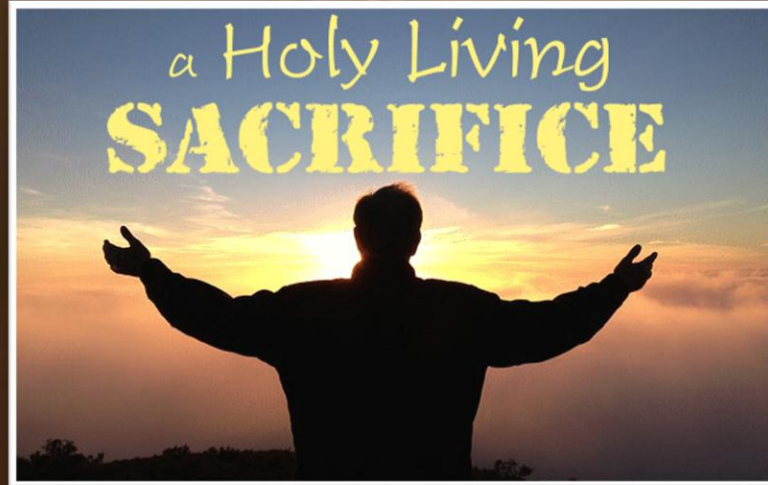
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Romans 12:1

“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

²¹ “They will build houses and inhabit *them*; They will also plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²² “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

“²¹ For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. ²² 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

³⁷ “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. ³⁸ Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! ³⁹ 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!’”

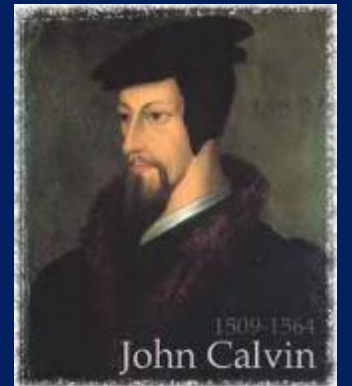


The Plagues of Egypt

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, Osiris
9.	Darkness	Exod. 10:21-29	Re, Horus, Atum
10.	Death of the First Born	Exod. 12:29-36	Min, Osiris, Heqt, Isis

3. Calvinism's overstatement of Divine Sovereignty

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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.”

Rules of Harvard in 1636; quoted in David Barton, *Original Intent*, 81

J.C. Rylands to William Carey

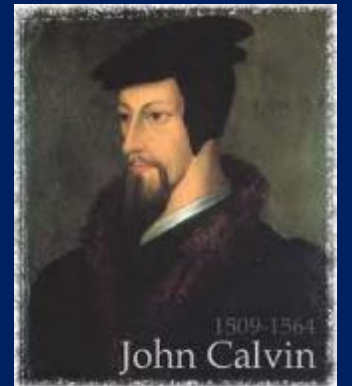
William Carey: (1761–1834): "My question to you is whether the command given to the apostles to 'teach all nations,' was not obligatory on all succeeding ministers to the end of the world, seeing that the accompanying promise was of equal extent? Is it not the duty of Christians to attempt the spread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

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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

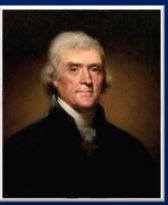
“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”



1 John 4:8

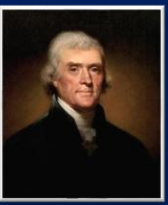
“The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”





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."

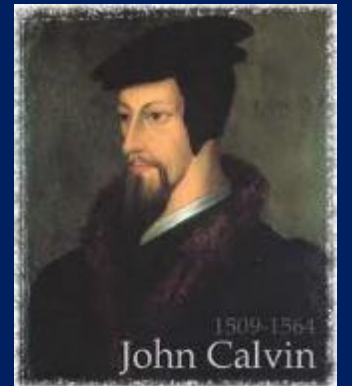


Thomas Jefferson

"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

“³ This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ 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
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