



Does the bible really say?

Part 7: "God elects people for salvation."

Romans 8:29-30; *"For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified."*

1. The American way

- ***Is the U.S. a democracy or a republic?*** The answer is: **yes & no**.
- The U.S. is **neither** a true democracy nor a true republic.
- It is a **constitutional federal** republic with **democratic** principles.
- Sometimes it is also called a **democratic republic**.
- A true democracy is **majority** rule. 50.1-49.9 rules the day.
- A true republic is where a **group** of citizens elect officials.
- When we say the pledge of allegiance, we say "*and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God...*".
- Here, **all** citizens are **afforded** the right to vote & to elect their chosen representatives. We elect congressmen, a president, & local officials.
- There is an element of majority rule, though things like the **Electoral** College & the '**separation** of powers' in the Constitution ensure that the majority doesn't always win the day.
- So, when we use the term 'elect', it means that we, the people, have voted & chosen a candidate to represent us.

2. That's Greek to me!

- The N. T. was composed in **Koine** Greek as its original language.
- In Greek, the word 'elect' is '**eklektos**' & it means what you think it means: to select, to choose, or to be picked out.
- You notice the similarity between the Greek & English words.
- So, election means election. Elect means elect. A choice is made.
- The main question is whose choice: specifically, who chooses salvation?

3. Why is election so controversial?

- The concept or doctrine of election has **not** been **historically** controversial. It has been a **settled** biblical truth. Some examples.
- **John 6:44**; *"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day."*
- **Romans 8:28-30**; *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. For those God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified."*
- **Ephesians 1:4-5**; *"For He chose us in Him, before the creation of the world, to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love, He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will..."*
- **1 Peter 2:9**; *"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praise of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light."*
- What is controversial is **how** & in what **manner** God chooses/elects those for salvation, & the consequences of those choices.

4. Two main views

- **Prescient/foreknowledge view**: this view teaches that God, through His omniscience, knows all those who choose faith in Christ by their own free will. God elects because He foreknew they would come.
- Under this view, the problem is that man becomes sovereign & has control over his eternal destiny, making salvation **formulaic**.
- God made the way through Jesus, but man must choose Christ.
- This undermines God's sovereignty further, as it would actually be dependent upon man to **populate** heaven.
- God would have to hope that mankind sees Jesus as enough.
- **Augustinian view**: that God directly chooses/elects those who will have faith in Christ. Therefore, election is not dependent upon man but God's sovereign will. Sometimes called **unconditional** election or **irresistible** grace in Reformed Theology.
- Under this view, God is definitively sovereign. God chooses & accomplishes redemption. God made redemption possible & enacts it.
- The main problem is that this view seems to **negate** free will, which is clearly outlined in God's Word, along with God's sovereignty.

- This can also lead to **apathy**. If God has determined who will be saved, then He has made a way to save them. Why do I need to evangelize?
- These viewpoints are hot-button issues in the debate between the two competing theological viewpoints of **Calvinism** (Reformed Theology) & **Arminianism**.
- The **slippery** slope. If God is choosing before the creation of the world, as Ephesians 1 says, by no merit (faith/goodness) or choice (free will) of man, then God is essentially picking **winners** & **losers**.
- This has also led to the thought that since God **destines** for salvation & heaven, then God also **destines** others for **hell**.
- The problem with that thought is **three-fold**: **1. It charges God with favoritism, 2. It could charge God with injustice, and 3. It questions God's goodness & could charge Him with evil.**
- In Romans, Paul anticipates **objections** to the sovereignty of God.
- **Turn to Romans 9**. The context of this passage is God's sovereign choice of extending grace/salvation to the Gentiles, beyond just Israel.
- In this chapter, we are given examples of God's election of **Isaac over Ismael & Jacob over Esau**.
- **Romans 9:15**; *"I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."*
- Later, Pharaoh is an example of a **hardened** heart, which is described as part of God's plan and purposes in the Exodus.
- **Romans 9:17-18**; *"For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: 'I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display My power in you and that My name might be proclaimed in all the earth.' Therefore, God has mercy on whom He wants to have mercy, and He hardens whom He wants to harden."* So, what do we as Baptists believe about sovereignty?
- From the Fundamental Laws of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's charter on April 30, 1858. *"Election is God's eternal choice of some persons unto everlasting life, not because of foreseen merit in them, but of His mere mercy in Christ, in consequence of which choice they are called, justified, & glorified."*
- **BF&M2000**; *"Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility."*

- **So, all sides presented, what should we believe about sovereignty?**
 1. God is **absolutely** & **perfectly** sovereign because the bible says so.
 2. God **gives** man free will because the bible says so.
 3. God's plans & purposes will **prevail** because the bible says so.
 4. God is working all things towards their **intended** conclusion because the bible says so.
 5. Both **predestination** & **personal** responsibility are true because the bible says so.
 6. God is in **control**, man makes **choices** & is **culpable** for his actions, because the bible says so.
 7. These are **reconcilable** truths because the bible says so.
 8. God works **in**, **through**, & **despite** man's free will because the bible says so.



Does the bible really say?

Part 7: "God elects people for salvation."

Romans 8:29-30; *"For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified."*

1. The _____ way

- ***Is the U.S. a democracy or a republic?*** The answer is: ____ & ____.
- The U.S. is _____ a true democracy nor a true republic.
- It is a _____ republic with _____ principles.
- Sometimes it is also called a _____.
- A true democracy is _____ rule. 50.1-49.9 rules the day.
- A true republic is where a _____ of citizens elect officials.
- When we say the pledge of allegiance, we say "*and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God...*".
- Here, ____ citizens are _____ the right to vote & to elect their chosen representatives. We elect congressmen, a president, & local officials.
- There is an element of majority rule, though things like the _____ College & the '_____ of powers' in the Constitution ensure that the majority doesn't always win the day.
- So, when we use the term 'elect', it means that we, the people, have voted & chosen a candidate to represent us.

2. That's _____ to me!

- The N. T. was composed in _____ Greek as its original language.
- In Greek, the word 'elect' is '_____' & it means what you think it means: to select, to choose, or to be picked out.
- You notice the similarity between the Greek & English words.
- So, election means election. Elect means elect. A choice is made.
- The main question is whose choice: specifically, who chooses salvation?

3. Why is election so _____?

- The concept or doctrine of election has _____ been _____ controversial. It has been a _____ biblical truth. Some examples.
- **John 6:44**; *"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day."*
- **Romans 8:28-30**; *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. For those God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified."*
- **Ephesians 1:4-5**; *"For He chose us in Him, before the creation of the world, to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love, He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will..."*
- **1 Peter 2:9**; *"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praise of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light."*
- What is controversial is _____ & in what _____ God chooses/elects those for salvation, & the consequences of those choices.

4. _____ views

- _____/foreknowledge view: this view teaches that God, through His omniscience, knows all those who choose faith in Christ by their own free will. God elects because He foreknew they would come.
- Under this view, the problem is that man becomes sovereign & has control over his eternal destiny, making salvation _____.
- God made the way through Jesus, but man must choose Christ.
- This undermines God's sovereignty further, as it would actually be dependent upon man to _____ heaven.
- God would have to hope that mankind sees Jesus as enough.
- _____ view: that God directly chooses/elects those who will have faith in Christ. Therefore, election is not dependent upon man but God's sovereign will. Sometimes called _____ election or _____ grace in Reformed Theology.
- Under this view, God is definitively sovereign. God chooses & accomplishes redemption. God made redemption possible & enacts it.
- The main problem is that this view seems to _____ free will, which is clearly outlined in God's Word, along with God's sovereignty.

- This can also lead to _____. If God has determined who will be saved, then He has made a way to save them. Why do I need to evangelize?
- These viewpoints are hot-button issues in the debate between the two competing theological viewpoints of _____ (Reformed Theology) & _____.
- The _____ slope. If God is choosing before the creation of the world, as Ephesians 1 says, by no merit (faith/goodness) or choice (free will) of man, then God is essentially picking _____ & _____.
- This has also led to the thought that since God _____ for salvation & heaven, then God also _____ others for _____.
- The problem with that thought is _____-fold: **1. It charges God with _____, 2. It could charge God with _____, and 3. It questions God's _____ & could charge Him with _____.**
- In Romans, Paul anticipates _____ to the sovereignty of God.
- **Turn to Romans 9.** The context of this passage is God's sovereign choice of extending grace/salvation to the Gentiles, beyond just Israel.
- In this chapter, we are given examples of God's election of _____ **over** _____ & _____ **over** _____.
- **Romans 9:15;** *"I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."*
- Later, Pharaoh is an example of a _____ heart, which is described as part of God's plan and purposes in the Exodus.
- **Romans 9:17-18;** *"For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: 'I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display My power in you and that My name might be proclaimed in all the earth.' Therefore, God has mercy on whom He wants to have mercy, and He hardens whom He wants to harden."* So, what do we as Baptists believe about sovereignty?
- From the Fundamental Laws of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's charter on April 30, 1858. *"Election is God's eternal choice of some persons unto everlasting life, not because of foreseen merit in them, but of His mere mercy in Christ, in consequence of which choice they are called, justified, & glorified."*
- **BF&M2000;** *"Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility."*

- **So, all sides presented, what should we believe about sovereignty?**

1. God is _____ & _____ sovereign because the bible says so.
2. God _____ man free will because the bible says so.
3. God's plans & purposes will _____ because the bible says so.
4. God is working all things towards their _____ conclusion because the bible says so.
5. Both _____ & _____ responsibility are true because the bible says so.
6. God is in _____, man makes _____ & is _____ for his actions, because the bible says so.
7. These are _____ truths because the bible says so.
8. God works ____, _____, & _____ man's free will because the bible says so.