

Election: Am I chosen?

1. Carefully observe what God intended with His covenant with Abraham and what it meant. What does it mean to be chosen – of God's elect?

And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. (Gen 17:8, ESV)

You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel." (Ex 19:4-6, ESV)

2. The apostle Peter makes a reference to Exodus 19:4-6 and indicates what God said in the Old Testament applies to the New Testament. Explain Peter's statement within the context of Genesis 17:8 and Exodus 19:4-6.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Pet 2:9-10, ESV)

3. Are you chosen? How can I be chosen?

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." (Mark 1:14-15, ESV)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (John 3:16-17, ESV)

4. Does God still use me if I am not chosen? What do you observe about the work of God?

Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." (John 7:28-29, ESV)

this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. (Acts 2:23, ESV)

for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. (Acts 4:27-28, ESV)

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Teacher Notes

1. Carefully observe what God intended with His covenant with Abraham and what it meant. What does it mean to be chosen – of God's elect?

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Ask the student: what did God choose to do in His promise to Abraham? Did God choose who would be a descendant of Abraham?

God chose to be God to Abraham and to His descendants. God did not choose who would be Believers.

Ask the student: what did God require of the nation of Israel so that they would be God's "treasured possession among all peoples" and be "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation?"

They had to have faith:

- 1) A belief that the invisible God is alive and real - "you yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians."
- 2) Engendering a trust in God's words - "now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant."

2. The apostle Peter makes a reference to Exodus 19:4-6 and indicates what God said in the Old Testament applies to the New Testament. Explain Peter's statement within the context of Genesis 17:8 and Exodus 19:4-6.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Pet 2:9-10, ESV)

Ask the student: without knowing the Old Testament basis of Peter's statement, do you see how a misinterpretation can take place? Discuss your thoughts.

Peter's statement, without any context of the Old Testament, suggests that God chose you to be a chosen race, a royal priesthood, and a holy nation.

Ask the student: what is your understanding within the context of Genesis 17:8 and Exodus 19:4-6? Discuss and explore the implications of your observations of all three biblical passages.

In the context of the Old Testament, Peter is speaking to Believers who have faith. Because a Believer has faith in God, God has chosen to be God to that Believer. And that Believer is counted as His people, God's "chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people for His own possession."

3. Are you chosen? How can I be chosen?

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Ask the student: do you remember what the name of Jesus in Hebrew means?

Jesus' Hebrew name means, "Yahweh is salvation." Just as the Exodus demonstrates that God is alive and real, so does Jesus. When you see Jesus, you have seen God (John 14:9).

Ask the student: how do you become of God's elect, His chosen people?

Have faith in God through the good news of His Son Jesus Christ. If the student is not a Believer, this would be a great time to ask if he would like to be and guide him with the prayer of salvation.

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Ask the student: how does God use Believers to "do the work of God?" Discuss how God uses Believers to get the world to believe in whom He has sent?"

Hint: Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matt 28:19-20, ESV)

Ask the student: how are non-Believers used? Did you notice that more than certain individuals were chosen to carry out God's plan?

The apostle Paul indicates that Herod, Pontius Pilate, Gentiles and the peoples of Israel were gathered to do whatever God's hand and plan had predetermined to take place!

God uses everyone to carry out His plan to recover the image of God and fulfill His covenant promises to Abraham. Whether one desires to have faith in God and becomes a descendant of Abraham determines how God chooses how to use one in the unfolding of His plan.