

Election: Why does God choose certain people?

1. The concept of God choosing certain people is a difficult concept to grasp, because the Bible mentions this sporadically throughout the Bible. Carefully observe these passages. The bold text is to help you with your observations and consideration. Share your data with the class.

“So now, come and **I will send you to Pharaoh, and so you shall bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt.**”

But Moses said to God, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?”

And He said, “Certainly I will be with you, and this shall be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God at this mountain.”

Then Moses said to God, “Behold, I am about to come to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you.’ And they will say to me, ‘What is His name?’ What shall I say to them?”

And God said to Moses, “**I AM WHO I AM**”; and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘**I AM has sent me to you.**’” (Ex 3:10-14, LSB)

for though **the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that the purpose of God according to His choice would stand**, not because of works but because of Him who calls, it was said to her, “The older shall serve the younger.” Just as it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.” (Rom 9:11-13, LSB)

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as exiles, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, **who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father**, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to the obedience of Jesus Christ and the sprinkling of His blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you. (1 Pet 1:1-2, LSB)

2. Does God choose non-Believers too? What does God choose people for?

Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. And we have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.” Jesus answered them, “**Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?**” Now He was speaking of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him. (John 6: 68-71, LSB)

“Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God did through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know - this Man, **delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of lawless men and put Him to death.** (Acts 2:22-23, LSB)

The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, but put to death the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead, a fact to which we are witnesses. And on the basis of faith in His name, it is the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which is through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all. “And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also. **But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.** (Acts 3:13-18, LSB)

The Teacher Note for this lesson is at:

<http://Helpmewithbiblestudy.org/25Curriculum/Class9-12/print/Salvation.Election.WhyChooseCertainPeople.9-12.pdf>

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Teacher Notes

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Encourage the student to mark up the text as an exercise of their observation.

Ask the student: what do you observe of God’s choice of Moses, Jacob and Esau, and Christians? From what you already know of each person / group, what does your data tell you of why God chose these people or group?

Moses was chosen to carry out God’s plan in the process of fulfilling His covenant promise to Abraham. Through Moses, God reveals His memorial name, defines what faith means (Ex 19:4-6), and introduces the Law – how to be holy and atone for sin.

Jacob and Esau shows that God’s choice, election of a person for a purpose, takes place before one’s birth and is independent of how he might live. It appears that, before birth, God’s foreknows a person’s character and desires.

Does God choose who will come to faith? No. God chose to be God to those who come to faith and becomes a descendant of Abraham (Gen 17:7). In foreknowing a person’s character / desires before their birth, God knows who will come to obey His Son Jesus Christ and be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

Ask the student: can you think of any person who was obviously chosen to carry out God’s plan?

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary. And coming in, he said to her, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was very perplexed at this statement, and was pondering what kind of greeting this was. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. (Luke 1:26-31, LSB)

Ask the student: for those of you who are saved, did God choose someone to bring you to Jesus Christ?

2. Does God choose non-Believers too? What does God choose people for?

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Encourage the student to mark up the three passages.

Ask the student: what do you observe of how God uses non-Believers? What do you recall of Jesus' crucifixion event?

Non-Believers were used to carry out God's plan! God foreknew of their character / desires before birth and used them in a predetermined plan so that Jesus Christ would be crucified on a certain day at a certain hour to fulfill the prophecies certifying Jesus as the promised Messiah to the world.

Ask the student a hypothetical question: does God elect / choose good and evil angels?

Teach the student: as you develop your own theology, you must always test your understanding. For your theology to be correct, it must take into account all passages relevant to your hypothesis. If it doesn't, then you must continue to develop your working hypothesis.