

CHOSEN BY GOD

I. THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD IN ALL THINGS

God is sovereign over creation (Jeremiah 32:17). He is sovereign over the weather (Psalm 135:6-7). He is sovereign over leaders (Proverbs 21:1). He is sovereign over Israel (Deuteronomy 7:6). He is sovereign over the nations (Psalm 33:10-11). He is sovereign over people (Daniel 4:35). He is sovereign over war (Psalm 46). He is sovereign over calamities (Lamentations 3:37-38). He is sovereign over His word (Isaiah 55:11). He was sovereign over the death of Christ. (Acts 2:23). He is sovereign over how long you live (Psalm 139:16). He is sovereign over when and where you live (Acts 17:26). He is sovereign over your job (James 4:13-15). He is sovereign over your work (Ephesians 2:10). He's sovereign over your life (Romans 8:28). Is not God also sovereign over who gets saved? Yes, He is.

II. GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY IN SALVATION – Ephesians 1:3-4

A. The origin of your salvation: it was God who chose to save you. Your salvation originated in the heart and mind of God Himself.

B. The definition of choose: from the Greek "*eklego*," it means "*to pick out, select, to choose for Oneself*." God selected certain people to get saved. God chose to save people in the past. The word chose is in the active tense which means God acted upon you to save you.

C. The objects of God's choosing were sinners, were His enemies. God didn't choose people because they deserved to be saved. Unconditional election.

D. One of the purposes of God choosing us is to make us holy, to make us eternally blameless in His sight. God sees you as holy.

E. The time of God's choosing was before the foundation of this world.

III. OTHER VERSES ON GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY IN SALVATION

Matthew 11:27, 1 Peter 1:1, 1 Peter 2:9, 2 Thessalonians 2:13, John 6:44, Acts 9:15, Acts 13:48, Romans 8:29-30, Ephesians 1:11 - "*In Him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will.*"

IV. QUESTIONS / ANSWERS ABOUT GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY IN SALVATION

A. God chose to save us ahead of time not because He saw we would have faith, but because He wanted to save us and then gave us the faith. We didn't choose God, but God chose us. No person can believe in his own power, but God has to give a person the ability to believe. Ephesians 2:1, Titus 3:4-5, Hebrews 12:2, Ephesians 2:8-9, Philippians 1:29, Acts 3:16

B. Every person (sinner) in the world deserves God's justice. No person deserves God's mercy (Romans 6:23, Ezekiel 18:4). God can choose to show mercy to some people, and at the same time He is just to leave other people in their sinful state. God is not unjust if He punishes some people for their sins and then in His mercy does not punish other people for their sins. Romans 9:11-24, 11:33-36

C. The Bible clearly teaches that God chooses people to get saved, but also teaches that people need to believe in Christ to be saved. The Bible teaches both election and human responsibility. From a human standpoint it is impossible to reconcile God's sovereignty in choosing us for salvation and our responsibility to believe in Christ for salvation. John 1:12-13; John 3:1-8, 3:9-21; Deuteronomy 29:29

V. GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY IN SALVATION IS A BLESSING TO US

- A. It humbles me because God chose me and I didn't deserve to be saved.
- B. It causes me to glorify God because He gets all the credit for my salvation.
- C. It gives me assurance about salvation because I can't change God's choice.
- D. It gives me a greater sense of purpose, and motivates me to live a holy life.
- E. It takes the pressure off me with regards to evangelism, for God saves people.
- F. It motivates me to witness to the lost, for I know some people will be saved.
- G. It motivates me to love God more, for I realize how much God has loved me.

AS MANY AS HAD BEEN APPOINTED
TO ETERNAL LIFE BELIEVED. ACTS 13:48

SOME QUESTIONS TO ANSWER:

1. What is the main thing that you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. How do you see God's sovereignty in your life and in the world?
3. What does it mean when we say that God chooses to save people?
4. What does unconditional election mean?
5. Explain why God is not unjust when it comes to who gets saved and who doesn't.
6. If God chooses who gets saved, then how can a person be responsible to believe?
7. What are some benefits of understanding this truth of God's sovereignty in salvation?