

GraceLife Church Presents . . .

Soteriology

The Purpose,
Accomplishment, Plan, and
Application of Redemption

The Plan of Redemption

The Plan of Redemption

Introduction

- ❖ The Decree of God
 - ❖ As an introduction and foundation to the doctrine of election.

The Plan of Redemption

The Decree of God

Definition

- ❖ The decree of God is his eternal plan by which he has rendered certain all the events of the universe, past, present, and future.
- ❖ Providence is the working out of this decree in time.

The Plan of Redemption

The Decree of God

Definition

“The decrees of God are his eternal purpose according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for his own glory, he hath fore-ordained whatsoever comes to pass.”

Westminster Shorter Catechism, Question 7 ‘What are the Decrees of God?’

The Plan of Redemption

The Decree of God

Definition

“God from all eternity did by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass; yet so as thereby neither is God the author of sin; nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures, nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established.”

The Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter III, Section 1.

The Plan of Redemption

The Decree of God

- ❖ 5 Characteristics of God's Decree
 - ❖ Eternal
 - ❖ Unconditional
 - ❖ Immutable
 - ❖ Exhaustive
 - ❖ Compatible

The Plan of Redemption

The Decree of God

- ❖ The decree, a decree,
- ❖ My purpose, his purpose, his own purpose,
- ❖ Your hand and your purpose,
- ❖ My good pleasure,
- ❖ Whatever the LORD pleases,
- ❖ The kind intension of his will; The mystery of his will,
- ❖ The counsel of his will; The counsel of the Lord
- ❖ The predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God
- ❖ Your hand and purpose

The Plan of Redemption

The Decree of God

- ❖ God's decree is like a blueprint for everything that comes to pass in time.
- ❖ God does not create this blueprint on the fly as the events of history unfold.
- ❖ Rather, he created this blueprint in eternity past before the creation of time.

The Plan of Redemption

The Decree of God

“Whether ends, means, contingencies, choices, or even the good and evil actions of men, nothing escapes the providential governance of God’s decree.”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 491.

The Plan of Redemption

The Decree of God

- ❖ The decree of God is sometimes referred to as *predestination* since God predetermines all things that come to pass.
- ❖ *Predestination* is also used more narrowly to refer to God's decree of salvation.
- ❖ In that sense predestination refers to the doctrines of election and reprobation.

The Plan of Redemption

The Doctrine of Election

- ❖ Election flows from God's sovereignty over all things.
- ❖ We saw, that God is sovereign even over the sinful acts of men.
- ❖ This is an aspect of Scripture that is difficult for some to accept.

The Plan of Redemption

The Doctrine of Election

- ❖ Q: Why do you think it is more difficult to accept God's sovereignty over salvation than God's sovereignty over the rest of the universe?
 - ❖ We seem to make free choices.
 - ❖ We want to protect man's freedom.
 - ❖ We want to protect God's goodness.

The Plan of Redemption

The Doctrine of Election

- ❖ We need to submit our thoughts to what God has revealed in Holy Scripture.
- ❖ The question we should be constantly asking is, ‘What does the Bible teach?’

The Plan of Redemption

The Doctrine of Election

- ❖ Scripture teaches that God chooses, that there are a group he calls 'the elect,' and that this election is to salvation.
- ❖ Election was accomplished as part of the eternal decree of God before the foundation of the world.
- ❖ Election, like the decree, is unconditional
- ❖ Election, like the decree, was not based on foreknowledge of faith.
- ❖ Election results in salvation (we are elected to believe, not elected because we believe).

The Plan of Redemption

The Doctrine of Election

- ❖ The teaching on election.
- ❖ The timing of election.
- ❖ The terms of election (unconditional).
- ❖ The tranquilizing of election (foreknowledge).
- ❖ The triumph of election.

The Plan of Redemption

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

- ❖ What does Scripture teach about election?

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

In the Old Testament

- ❖ Election of individuals to certain offices and tasks (eg. Num 16:5–7; Deut 18:1–5; 21:5; 1 Chron 15:2; 1 Sam 2:27–28; Hag 2:23).
- ❖ Election of Israel as God's people (Deut 7:6–7; 10:15; etc.).
- ❖ Election of individuals as part of the promised seed line (Gen 17:19–21; 18:19; 21:12; Rom 9:7–13).

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

In the Old Testament

Neh 9:7 “You are the LORD God,
Who chose Abram
And brought him out from Ur of the Chaldees,
And gave him the name Abraham.

Neh 9:8 “You found his heart faithful before You,
And made a covenant with him
To give *him* the land of the Canaanite,
Of the Hittite and the Amorite,
Of the Perizzite, the Jebusite and the Girgashite —
To give *it* to his descendants.
And You have fulfilled Your promise,
For You are righteous.

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

In the Old Testament

Deut 7:7 “The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, 8 but because the LORD loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the LORD brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9 “Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments;

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

In the Old Testament

Deut 10:15 “Yet on your fathers did the LORD set His affection to love them, and He chose their descendants after them, *even* you above all peoples, as *it is* this day.

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

In the Old Testament

Amos 3:1 Hear this word which the LORD has spoken against you, sons of Israel, against the entire family which He brought up from the land of Egypt: **2** “You only have I chosen among all the families of the earth; Therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.”

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

In the Old Testament

Gen 18:19 “For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.”

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

In the Old Testament

Gen 17:19 But God said, “No, but Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. **20** “As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I will bless him, and will make him fruitful and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall become the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. **21** “But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year.”

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

In the Old Testament

- ❖ The truth of election to offices and tasks does not negate the fact that there can also be an election to salvation as well.
- ❖ Even that God chose Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and entered into covenant with them shows an election to salvation in the Old Testament.

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

In the New Testament

- ❖ Election to salvation becomes even clearer in the New Testament.

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

In the New Testament

Luke 6:13 And when day came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles:

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

In the New Testament

John 6:70 Jesus answered them, “Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and *yet* one of you is a devil?”

John 13:18 “I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but *it is* that the Scripture may be fulfilled, ‘HE WHO EATS MY BREAD HAS LIFTED UP HIS HEEL AGAINST ME.’

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

In the New Testament

John 15:16 “You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

John 15:19 “If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

In the New Testament

Matt 11:25 At that time Jesus said, “I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. **26** “Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. **27** “All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*.

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

In the New Testament

Matt 22:14 “For many are called, but few *are* chosen.”

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

In the New Testament

Matt 24:21 “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. **23** “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or ‘There *He is,*’ do not believe *him*. **24** “For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.”

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

In the New Testament

Matt 24:29 “But immediately after the tribulation of those days . . . **31** [the Son of Man] will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and **THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect** from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

In the New Testament

1 Cor 1:26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; **27** but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, **28** and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, **29** so that no man may boast before God. **30** But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, **31** so that, just as it is written, “LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.”

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

In the New Testament

Eph 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, **4** just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love **5** He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, **6** to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

In the New Testament

2 Tim 2:10 For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus *and with it* eternal glory.

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

In the New Testament

Rom 8:29 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.

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

Definition

- ❖ If we believe the Bible we believe in election because the Bible uses the word and it uses it in connection with salvation.

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

Definition

“Election is an act of God before creation in which He chooses some people to be saved, not on account of any foreseen merit in them, but only because of his sovereign good pleasure.”

Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 670.

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

Definition

“It may be defined as that eternal act of God whereby He, in His sovereign good pleasure, and on account of no foreseen merit in them, chooses a certain number of men to be the recipients of special grace and of eternal salvation. More briefly it may be said to be God’s eternal purpose to save some of the human race in and by Jesus Christ.”

Louis Berkof, *Systematic Theology*, 114.

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

Definition

- ❖ If we believe the Bible we believe in election because the Bible uses the word.
- ❖ 3 areas where people disagree with the doctrine of election
 - ❖ 1. Not connected to salvation.
 - ❖ 2. Not connected to individuals.
 - ❖ 3. Based upon foreknowledge of faith.

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

Definition

1: Election and salvation cannot be separated:

Rom 8:29 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.

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

Definition

1: Election and salvation cannot be separated:

Eph 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, **4** just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love **5** He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, **6** to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

Definition

2: Election is of individuals to salvation:

Eph 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, **4** just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love **5** He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, **6** to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

Definition

2: Election is of individuals to salvation:

- ❖ God chose 'us' not 'him.
- ❖ All the blessings of salvation which we have 'in Christ' are for the individual believer not a nameless faceless mass of people who are joined to Christ by their own choice.
- ❖ The logic of corporate election results in God choosing those who choose him.

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

Definition

“Such a scheme [that God chose Christ and believers become ‘elect’ when they are united to Christ by faith] ‘makes the purposes of Almighty God to be conditioned by the precarious wills of apostate men and makes temporal events to be the cause of His eternal acts.’”

Lorraine Boettner, *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination*, 101; quoted in John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 493.

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

Definition

2: Election is of individuals to salvation:

John 10:14 I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, 15 even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

John 10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;

John 17:6 I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

Definition

2: Election is of individuals to salvation:

John 10:14 I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, 15 even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

John 10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;

John 17:6 I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

Definition

3: We will look at election and foreknowledge later.

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

Definition

“It may be defined as that eternal act of God whereby He, in His sovereign good pleasure, and on account of no foreseen merit in them, chooses a certain number of men to be the recipients of special grace and of eternal salvation. More briefly it may be said to be God’s eternal purpose to save some of the human race in and by Jesus Christ.”

Louis Berkof, *Systematic Theology*, 114.

The Doctrine of Election

The Time of Election

Eph 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, **4** just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love **5** He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, **6** to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

The Doctrine of Election

The Time of Election

Before the Foundation of the World

“In every case the word [foundation] is preceded by a preposition . . . When used with the preposition ἀπό, it has the meaning ‘from the beginning or foundation of the world.’ With the preposition πρό, it has the meaning that an action occurred before the foundation or creation of the world. . . Therefore, God chose the believer before the world was even created, that is, in eternity past.”

Harold Hoehner, *Ephesians*, 177–78.

The Doctrine of Election

The Time of Election

Before the Foundation of the World

Matt 25:34 “Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’”

The Doctrine of Election

The Time of Election

Before the Foundation of the World

John 17:24 Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

1 Pet 1:20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you

The Doctrine of Election

The Time of Election

Eternity

2 Thess 2:13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. **14** It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Doctrine of Election

The Time of Election

Eternity

1 Thess 5:9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

The Doctrine of Election

The Time of Election

Eternity

2 Tim 1:9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

The Doctrine of Election

The Time of Election

The Book of Life

Rev 13:8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, *everyone* whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.

The Doctrine of Election

The Time of Election

The Book of Life

Rev 17:8 “The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.

The Doctrine of Election

The Time of Election

The Book of Life

Luke 10:20 “Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.”

The Doctrine of Election

The Time of Election

The Book of Life

Phil 4:3 Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in *the cause of the gospel*, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

The Doctrine of Election

The Time of Election

The Book of Life

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

Rev 21:27 and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

The Doctrine of Election

The Time of Election

Conclusion

- ❖ What can we conclude because election was before the foundation of the world in eternity past?
- ❖ Who was there to influence God's choice?
- ❖ When we looked at the decree of God in general we concluded that the decree was unconditional and immutable—based solely on God's good pleasure.