

Election,  
Predestination &  
Foreknowledge of God

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## Election

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**Ephesians 4:14** That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

**2 Timothy 4:2** Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

**2 Timothy 3:16** All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof...

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Ephesians 1:4 According as he hath **chosen** us in him before the foundation of the world...

As we look at these subjects discussed in the Bible, we are actually trying to discern the mind of God. The Word of God reveals the mind of God. We cannot even figure out our own mind, much less consider ourselves to be able to discern how God thinks. The Lord God Almighty has created well over 50 billion galaxies with about 100 to 400 billion stars in each galaxy. He calls each star by name. (Ps. 147:4) Keep this in mind as you may think yourself to be an expert in this area of theology only to find out that we are totally ignorant of the mind and character of God. He is Who He is.

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God has **chosen us / elected us**. Notice the following definitions of this word:

Friberg: (1) middle *choose out, select* (for oneself) (MK 13.20); (2) *choose from among* (a number) (AC 1.24); (3) *choose for* (some purpose) (EP 1.4)

Strong's: 1) to pick out, choose, to pick or choose out for one's self 1a) choosing one out of many, i.e. Jesus choosing his disciples 1b) choosing one for an office 1c) of God choosing whom he judged fit to receive his favours and separated from the rest of mankind to be peculiarly his own and to be attended continually by his gracious oversight 1c1) i.e. the Israelites 1d) of God the Father choosing Christians, as those whom he set apart from the irreligious multitude as dear unto himself, and whom he has rendered, through faith in Christ, citizens in the Messianic kingdom: (James 2:5) so that the ground of the choice lies in Christ and his merits only.

All the saved are elected by God. God has chosen / elected us for a purpose, that we should be holy and without blame.

2 Timothy 1:9-10a Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ....

In eternity past, it was in mind of God for His children to be holy and without blame. In eternity future, we will never totally fathom his riches of grace and his kindness toward us.

Ephesians 2:7-10 **That in the ages to come** he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of

yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For **we are his workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus **unto good works**, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Easy-believism negates the work of the Holy Spirit and Calvinism negates the free will of man. Calvinism teaches that man is dead (Eph. 2:1) and incapable of choosing. Our spirit is dead, but within the living soul resides a will; the will of man. Rather than refuting the TULIP doctrine, let us search the Scriptures....

In the mind of God, the following are **before the foundation of the world**. These have been foreordained by God, are the counsels of God, the elect of God... or whatever you want to call them.

1) Israel – God’s elect

Isaiah 45:4 For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.

2) God loved Jesus.

John 17:24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

Isaiah 42:1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, *in whom* my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

3) Christ to be Lamb

1 Peter 1:19-20 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

4) Church age dispensation

Ephesians 3:2, 5-6 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God... Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

Ephesians 3:9-10 And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly *places* might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

5) Christ dwelling within the believer

Colossians 1:25-27 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; *Even* the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

6) Our salvation was in the mind of God.

Ephesians 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world

7) Kingdom of Christ

Matthew 13:33-35 Another parable spake he... The kingdom of heaven is like unto... That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

8) Saved in the Tribulation Period

Mark 13:27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

Matthew 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

9) Saved in Millennium

Isaiah 65:22 They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree *are* the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

These are all events foreordained of God. These are all “Big Picture” events.

**God’s plan includes his counsel, His purposes and His foreknowledge:**

**Acts 2:23** Him, being delivered by the **determinate counsel** and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

Many mistakenly connect the foreknowledge of God and His pre-determined counsel based upon Acts 2:23. There is no solid evidence to do so. The Greek language does not give one liberty to do this.

A.W.Pink believes ‘foreknow’ is equated with ‘fore-love.’ He equates ‘know’ as Adam ‘knew’ his wife. However, Paul uses this Greek word in 2 Pet. 3:17 and Acts 26:5 as to fore-know, not fore-love. This is further discussed at the top of page 6.

Some things are the determinate counsel of God (His omnipotence) and some things are known by the foreknowledge of God (His omniscience). God foreknows who will be saved, but God pre-determines Israel, Calvary, the Tribulation Period, the Everlasting Kingdom...

I.E. Israel: Romans 11:2 “God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew...”

Note “Big Picture” events of His counsel and His purpose include persons such as Pharoah, Jacob vs. Esau, and Judas. Even though Judas was within this purpose of God, the free-will of Judas was not violated by the sovereignty of God. This will be addressed later in this booklet starting at page 12.

## Foreknowledge of God

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People knew some things beforehand. Foreknowledge means to know before – like “prognosis”. Prognosis is a transliterated Greek word.

Here are two examples that Paul uses this Greek word for *foreknowledge*:

**2 Peter 3:17** Ye therefore, beloved, seeing **ye know *these things* before**, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.

**Acts 26:4-5** My manner of life from my youth, which was at the first among mine own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews; Which **knew me from the beginning**, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.

### God Foreknew

1) That the prophets would be killed

Luke 11:49-50 Therefore also said the wisdom of God, I will send them prophets and apostles, and *some* of them they shall slay and persecute: That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation;

2) What your human body would look like

Psalms 139:13-16 For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made: marvellous *are* thy works; and *that* my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, *and* curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all *my members* were written, *which* in continuance were fashioned, when *as yet there was* none of them.

3) Who would be saved

Revelation 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Revelation 17:8 ...and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not...

**The elect are based upon this foreknowledge. Our free will is not violated. We choose and are held accountable and responsible for our choices.**

**Ephesians 1:4** According as he hath **chosen us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

**2 Thessalonians 2:13** But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because **God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation** through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

**1 Peter 1:1-2** Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, **Elect according to the foreknowledge of God** the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

**Romans 8:29-30** For **whom he did foreknow**, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

The predestination in Romans 8:29-30 is actually teaching the doctrine of eternal security. Saved people are predestined to get to heaven.

The choosing / electing by God is based upon His foreknowledge. God foreknew who would be saved, and chose them, wrote their name in the Lamb's book of life, and predestinated them to get to heaven. In the wisdom of God, all this is done without violating the free will of man.

In the mind of God, in eternity past, God had all this figured out. Election is based upon the foreknowledge of God and does not violate the free will of man in calling upon the name of the Lord.

Thus: God's foreknowledge does not violate the "whosoever" of John 3:16 or Rom. 10:13.

Romans 11:33-34 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?

## Predestination

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Ephesians 1:5 Having **predestinated** us unto the **adoption** of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

Ephesians 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being **predestinated** according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

Predestinate: To pre-determine; decide beforehand; determine in advance.

The word *predestinate* / *predestinated* is found 4 times in the Bible (Eph. 1:5, 1:11, Rom. 8:29, 8:30).

We are predestinated:

1. To be conformed to the image of Jesus Rom. 8:29
2. Unto adoption of children Eph. 1:5
3. For an Inheritance Eph. 1:11

Predestination has nothing to do with the salvation of a soul. It has everything to do with the fact that God has predestinated saved people to make it to heaven.

### **Predestinated to Be Conformed to Image of His Son**

Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

God foreknew who would be saved. Those who are saved are predestinated to be conformed to the image of Jesus (in heaven).

**Philippians 3:21** Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

It did not surprise God that you got saved. We will never understand the mind of God in matters like this.

**Isaiah 55:8-9** For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

“Shall not God search this out? For He knoweth the secrets of the heart.” Ps. 44:21

### **Predestinated Unto Adoption of Children**

Ephesians 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the **adoption** of children by Jesus Christ...

The word *adoption* is found 5 times in the N.T.. It can mean:

1. God’s relationship with Israel Rom. 9:4
2. Believer at salvation Rom. 8:15, Gal. 4:5
3. Believer in state of a glorified body Rom. 8:23.



Eph. 1:5, the Bible does not tell which one of the above three instances God is trying to convey.  
Compare Scripture with Scripture to *rightly divide the Word of Truth*:

Romans 8:29 ...he also did **predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son...**

Ephesians 1:5 Having **predestinated** us unto the **adoption** of children by Jesus Christ...

Romans 8:23 ...waiting for the **adoption, to wit**, the redemption of our body.

When we compare Scripture with Scripture, the word *adoption* as far as predestination is concerned, means "the fully-grown mature state; our fully saved body in heaven."

Thus, Predestination unto adoption means that we are predestinated to get to heaven.

Romans 8:29 ...he also did **predestinate to be**

**conformed to the image of his Son...**

Ephesians 1:5 Having **predestinated** us unto the

**adoption** of children by Jesus Christ...

Romans 8:23 ...waiting for the

**adoption, to wit**, the redemption of our body.

There is no foundation to advocate that the predestination of Ephesians 1:5 refers to salvation.

### **Predestined for an Inheritance**

**Ephesians 1:10-11** That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being **predestinated** according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

The subject of these verses is the arrival into heaven, our inheritance, which is predestinated.

### **Means of Predestinating Saved to Heaven**

Ephesians 1:11-14 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being **predestinated** according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation in whom also after that ye believed, ye were **sealed with that holy Spirit of promise**, Which is the **earnest of our inheritance** until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

The Holy Spirit is our earnest (down payment money with promise to pay full amount).

He (The Holy Spirit) is the means of making sure our predestinated body will get to heaven.

## Free Will of Man

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Your salvation has to do with the choice of your heart. God knows your heart and searches the heart. You will either seek and find (salvation), or you will rebel and stay lost.

Romans 2:5-9 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; **Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who** by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: **But unto them** that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile.

To them who...seek...eternal life (Rom. 2:7). You seek by thinking, meditating and reasoning to obtain man's great need for God and that which only He can give. Jesus promised, "Seek and ye shall find."

Jer. 29:13 And ye shall **seek me, and find me**, when ye shall **search for me with all your heart**.

If you are saved, God chose you, elected you and predestinated you to go to heaven because He foreknew you would be saved.

Romans 11:36 For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory for ever. Amen.

The free will of man is evident as these promises of God are legitimate offers:

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**John 5:24** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

**Revelation 22:17** And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Consider the plain teaching of free-will in these two verses:

**Matt. 7:7** Ask, and it shall be given you; **seek, and ye shall find**; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

**Romans 2:6-7** Who will render to every man according to his deeds: **To them who** by patient continuance in well doing **seek** for glory and honour and immortality, **eternal life**:

God has a will and man has a will. Does the character of God allow Him to violate the free-will of man. This is a question each must consider as they allow the mind of God to be revealed from the Holy Scriptures.

**Acts 17:11** These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

## God Created Man for Fellowship

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This fellowship was broken by the disobedience of Adam as man became a fallen creature. God will restore broken fellowship after a new heaven and a new earth.

**Revelation 21:3** And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God.

### God intended Israel to walk in fellowship with Him:

**Genesis 17:8** And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

**Exodus 29:45** And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God.

### God intends N.T. saints to walk in fellowship with Him:

**2 Corinthians 6:16** And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 times in the Bible: "Be my people"

14 times in the Bible: "Be their God"

### Sin separates us from God. Fellowship is only through the Blood of Jesus Christ:

**1 John 1:5** This then is the message ...that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

**1 John 1:3** That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

**1 John 1:7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

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Our fellowship after salvation is determined by our free-will. "That ye may have..." is based a choice. "If we walk in the light..." is based upon a choice.

Our salvation is also determined by choice... *whosoever* verses. *Whosoever* is found 110 times in the N.T. . The Bible culminates with:

**Revelation 22:17** And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And **whosoever will**, let him take the water of life freely.

## Judas, Pharaoh & Prophecy

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Judas and Pharaoh are necessary individuals for the betrayal of Jesus Christ and the deliverance of Israel out of Egypt. God foreknew that all this would happen as it is prophesied in the Bible, yet He did not violate their free-will. The Sovereignty of God does not violate the free-will of man.

We would conclude the same for the fall of Lucifer, the sin of Adam, the denial of Peter, the destruction of Jerusalem... although God foreknows, He does not violate free-will. The promises of God for each individual would not be an honest proposition if God 'made' someone do what they do. Judas chose; Pharaoh chose; Lucifer chose and Adam chose to sin. God's character is not tainted by choices that He foreknows.

**Romans 9:14** What shall we say then? *Is there* unrighteousness with God? God forbid.

**James 1:13-14** Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

**Romans 11:33** O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

### Judas

**John 13:18** I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.

**Psalms 41:9** Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up *his* heel against me.

**Matthew 26:15** And said *unto them*, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.

**Matthew 27:3** Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

**Zechariah 11:12-13** And I said unto them, If ye think good, give *me* my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty *pieces* of silver. And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty *pieces* of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD.

**Matthew 27:7-9** And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value;

Either Zechariah quoted Jeremiah or Jeremiah was the compiler of the section titled, *Prophets*.

**Acts 1:18-20** Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out. And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood. For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take.

**Psalms 109:8** Let his days be few; *and* let another take his office.

### Pharaoh

**Romans 9:17** For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.

God's ways are past finding out. Did you receive mercy because you deserved it? Is salvation granted on your merit? Obviously it is not. Consider the Sovereignty of God.

**Romans 9:15-16** For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then *it is* not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

**Proverbs 16:4** The LORD hath made all *things* for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.

**Romans 9:17** For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.

We need to submit to the Sovereignty of God

**Romans 9:19-21** Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will? Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed *it*, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

God foreknew the deliverance from Egypt, Calvary, the Tribulation Period, the Millennial Reign and the Everlasting Kingdom. He also foreknew you. All this is done by an all-wise God.

**Jeremiah 1:5** Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, *and* I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

We cannot know the mind of God nor can we come close. Beware lest we make God the author of sin by stating that His will violates the free-will of man.

### Why did God choose Pharaoh?

**Romans 9:17** For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for **this same purpose** have I raised thee up, **that I might shew my power in thee**, and **that my name might be declared** throughout all the earth.

## Why did Jesus choose Judas as an apostle?<sup>1</sup>

1. To Show the Depravity of the Human Heart

**Jeremiah 17:9** The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

2. To Fulfill All Scripture

**John 10:35** If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;

3. To Show the Danger of Hypocrisy

The word *hypocrisy* means *actor*. One man had many faces as he *played* each part.

A weak Christian sins and loathes it while a hypocrite deliberately deceives themselves and seeks even to deceive God.

- There are wheat & tares
- Judah sold Joseph to Ishmaelite merchants who took him into Egypt
- Absalom betrayed his own father, King David
- Ahithophel betrayed David, and then went and hanged himself
- Every church has a *Judas*

4. To Show an Impartial Witness to the Deity of the Son of God

**Matthew 27:3-4** Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What *is that* to us? see thou *to that*.

5. To Show How Close One can be To Jesus and Not be Saved

James, the half-brother of Jesus did not get saved until after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Judas never did get saved. Many will know Jesus Christ is Lord but not confess it until the Judgment.

**Philippians 2:9-11** Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Tom Malone Preaches on the Apostles p. 217-229

## Jacob, Esau & Election

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**Romans 9:13** As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

**Malachi 1:2-3** I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? *Was* not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob, And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness.

**Who is Jacob? Jacob is Israel, God's people.**

**Genesis 35:10** And God said unto him, Thy name *is* Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name: and he called his name Israel.

### God Choosing

**Genesis 25:23** And the LORD said unto her, Two nations *are* in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and *the one* people shall be stronger than *the other* people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

**Romans 9:11-12** (For *the children* being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger.

Jacob was chosen as heir to the line that received the promises of God.

**Genesis 50:24** And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

**Exodus 2:24** And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

The trio of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is repeated in Exo. 3:6, 3:15-16, 4:5, 6:3, 6:8, 33:1, Lev. 26:42, Numb. 32:11, Deut. 1:8, 6:10, 9:5, 9:27, 29:13, 30:20 and 34:4.

God chose Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as the children of promise. This is outside of the realm of their personal salvation. Jacob and Esau's personal relationship with God is not the issue, but rather the line through whom Christ would come is the issue.

### Love and Hate explained

"It was common among the Hebrews to use the terms *love* and *hatred* in this comparative sense, where the former implied strong *positive* attachment, and the latter, not positive hatred, but merely as a less love, or the withholding of the expressions of affection." BARNES

Thus hatred is not a positive hate, but a lesser love. Here is an example:

**Proverbs 13:24** He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

The parent that does not spank his child does not hate him, but rather expresses a lesser love. Hence, *hating* is sometimes used comparatively for a less degree:

**Matthew 6:24** No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

**Luke 14:26** If any *man* come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

**Gen. 29:31** And when the LORD saw that Leah *was* hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel *was* barren.

Leah wasn't hated. A lesser love for her than the love for Rachel is called *hated*.

**Romans 9:13** As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

"The hatred was not a proper and formed hatred (for God could not hate Esau before he sinned) but only a lesser love, which, in comparison to the great love for Jacob, seemed as if it were not love."

BARNES

### **Context of Romans Chapter 9**

**Romans chapters 9-11** remind us that God is not done with Israel. Hence the **topic is *National Israel and their relationship with God rather than individual election***. The context is not God choosing Esau to be damned, but rather to be passed over and electing Jacob to be *Israel*. The same context applies to Pharaoh in this same passage.

**God loved Jacob, the second born – remind us of our need for a second birth.**

**John 3:7** Marvel not that I said unto thee, **Ye must be born again**.

**John 1:13** Which were **born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God**.

**James 1:18** Of his own will **begat he us** with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits...

**1 Peter 1:23** Being **born again**, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, **by the word of God**...

**1 John 3:9** **Whosoever is born of God** doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

**1 John 4:7** Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is **born of God**..

**1 John 5:1** Whosoever **believeth** that Jesus is the Christ is **born of God**: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

**1 John 5:4** For whatsoever is **born of God** overcometh the world...

**1 John 5:18** We know that whosoever is **born of God** sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God...



## God Gives Mercy to Whom He Will

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**Romans 9:11-18** (For *the children* being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. What shall we say then? *Is there* unrighteousness with God? God forbid. For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then *it is* not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will *have mercy*, and whom he will he hardeneth.

This passage tells us that God would choose or elect Jacob (Israel) over Esau. Israel is God's elect. God can choose whom He will and not violate the free-will of man.

God does not owe anyone mercy.

**Lamentations 3:22** *It is of* the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

In God's mercy, He reveals Himself to the world through creation.

**Psalms 19:1-3** To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. *There is* no speech nor language, *where* their voice is not heard.

In God's mercy, He reveals Himself to everyone.

**John 1:9** *That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

Some are given more *light*. That is God's business.

**Matthew 11:21** Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

**Matthew 11:23** And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

People may get mad at God and consider Him to be unfair, but He is Lord, and He will have mercy on whom He will have mercy, and He will have compassion on whom He will have compassion.

God deals with Nebuchadnezzar both in God's decrees and in God's individual salvation.

Nebuchadnezzar was King of Babylon by the decree of God. (See Dan. Chapters 2 & 7). As an individual, God foreknew and foretold that Nebuchadnezzar would be humbled.

**Daniel 4:24-26** This *is* the interpretation, O king, and this *is* the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king: That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule.

Nebuchadnezzar was proud against God and the Lord did fulfill what He had foretold. Note this did not violate the free-will of Nebuchadnezzar.

**Daniel 4:30-31** The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty? While the word *was* in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, *saying*, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.

God had compassion on Nebuchadnezzar and he got saved.

**Daniel 4:34-37** And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom *is* from generation to generation: And all the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and *among* the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me. Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works *are* truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

Here one can see the workings of God in decreeing Nebuchadnezzar as King and also showing mercy and having compassion on him as Nebuchadnezzar was undeserving of God's grace. All this was done without violating his free-will.

Romans chapters 9-11 give us a reminder that God is not done with Israel. He will, in His wisdom, take out all the saved and pour out His wrath on this earth and purge Israel to receive Jesus Christ as their Messiah. All this is decreed without violating the free-will of seven billion people. How can we understand all this? We cannot.

**Romans 11:33-36** O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory for ever. Amen.

Hence, God's choosing Jacob over Esau did not violate their free-will but was within the plan of God. Pharaoh, Esau, Judas and the Antichrist all will live and fulfill Bible prophecy without God violating their free-will. The Tribulation Period, the Second Coming and the Millennium will also come as decreed by God and will not violate the free-will of humanity.

One must put the entire Bible, the character of God and His workings in their entirety to see harmony in God's will and God's way.

**Isaiah 55:8-9** For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.