



CHOSEN: God's Sovereign Fulfillment of His Saving Promises • Part 2

Lesson 8

Unconditional Election is God choosing undeserving sinners for salvation by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. *Romans* 9:11, 16, 22-25; 11:5-7

"God elects individual persons to salvation regardless of any conditions of will, effort, desire, or ability. He is absolutely free to save whoever He so desires and He is absolutely just in His right to do so." ~Geoff Ashley

"The weight of biblical and historical evidence rests in favor of a single, unconditional election to life. This position holds that out of the mass of fallen and responsible humanity—for reasons known to himself—God in grace chose some to be saved and to permit the others to persist in their sin." ~Bruce Demarest, The Cross and Salvation

"Election is that eternal act of God, by which in His sovereign pleasure, and on account of no foreseen merit in them, He chooses certain of the number of sinful men to be recipients of the special grace of His Spirit, and so to be made voluntary partakers of Christ's salvation." ~A. H. Strong, Baptist Theologian, Systematic Theology

"Those of mankind that are predestinated to life, God, before the foundation of the world was laid, according to his eternal and immutable purpose, and the secret counsel and good pleasure of His will, has chosen in Christ, to everlasting glory, out of His free grace and love alone, without any foresight of faith or good works, or perseverance in either of them, or any other thing in the creature, as conditions, or causes moving Him thereto; and all to the praise of His glorious grace." ~Westminster Confession 1646

"Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility." ~ Baptist Faith and Message 2000

Three Reasons Why God's Saving Promises to Israel Have Not Failed (Even though Most Jews Have Rejected Jesus as Their Messiah and Many Gentiles Have!)

1. Because God Does Not Fulfill His Saving Promise by PHYSICAL BIRTH. (9:6-9)

The Explanation: Physical Birth Does Not Determine the True People of God

- Not all Jews who are descended from physical Israel belong to SPIRITUAL Israel, the true people of God. (v. 6)

*John the Baptist reminded the Pharisees of this in **Matthew 3:9***

- Not all Jews who are the physical offspring of Abraham are His spiritual CHILDREN, the true people of God. (v. 7)

*Jesus had to rebuke the Jews of His day about this in **John 8:37-41***

- Not all Jews who are Abraham's physical children are actually GOD'S children, the true people of God are the children conceived by His saving promise. (v. 8)

*Paul has already made this point in **Romans 2:28-29***

The Example from God's Word: Isaac Is the Chosen Child of Promise Not Ishmael ~ Genesis 12—21

- Isaac was the child conceived by God's SOVEREIGN choice and saving promise through Sarah. (vv. 7-9)

*Isaac was **conceived** by God's sovereign (supernatural) POWER (v. 9)*

*Isaac was **born** by God's sovereign (scriptural) PROMISE (v. 8)*

*Isaac was **chosen** by God's sovereign PURPOSE (v. 7)*

- Ishmael was the child conceived by Abraham's PERSONAL choice and fleshly efforts through Hagar. (v. 8)

*What counts in the fulfillment of God's saving promises is grace not race!
Your paternity does not guarantee your eternity!*

2. Because God Does Not Fulfill His Saving Promise by POTENTIAL BEHAVIOR. (9:10-13)

The Example from God's Word: Jacob Chosen Out of Love, Esau Given Over to Wrath ~ *Genesis 25:23; Malachi 1:2-3*

- The physical birth of two boys was identical (v. 10)
- The potential behavior of two boys was not the issue (v. 11)
- The purposeful basis for the difference between the boys was the sovereign choice of God (vv. 12-13)

3. Because God Does Fulfill His Saving Promise by UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION. (9:11)

The Explanation of the Examples from God's Word

- God fulfills His saving promises by His SOVEREIGN choice (v. 11)

He does not choose us because we choose Him; He chooses us so we will choose Him!

"I believe the doctrine of election, because I am quite certain that, if God had not chosen me, I should never have chosen Him; and I am sure He chose me before I was born, or else He never would have chosen me afterwards; and He must have elected me for reasons unknown to me, for I never could find any reason in myself why He should have looked upon me with special love. So I am forced to accept that great Biblical doctrine." ~Charles Spurgeon

- God fulfills His saving promises by His UNCONDITIONAL choice (vv. 11, 6-7, 11, 15-16)
- God's saving promises have not failed; His sovereign purpose in election still stands by His grace for His glory, for our good, and for joy of all peoples in Christ!
 - 1) **Be THANKFUL!** *Apart from God's sovereign choice, no one would be saved—including you and me and many others who are appointed to eternal life but have yet to hear and believe!*
 - 2) **Be HUMBLE!** *We did not choose Him but He chose us by grace through faith in Christ!*
 - 3) **Be BOLD!** *Share the gospel of Christ with all people for God has unconditionally chosen many from every tribe, language, nation, and people group to believe the good news of salvation in Christ! See Acts 18:9-11*

Continue Reading Romans 9-11...

- ☐ **Day 1** Read Romans 9:1-29 and jot down insights into divine sovereignty in Israel's past election.
- ☐ **Day 2** Read Romans 9:30-10:21 and jot down insights into human responsibility in Israel's present rejection.
- ☐ **Day 3** Read Romans 11:1-36 and jot down insights into the glorious mercy and mystery in Israel's future restoration.
- ☐ **Days 4-6** Repeat the above.