

Election of Israel by Grace

1. Israel was begun, grown, delivered, and prospered only by the Grace of God.
2. *Election* is a biblical term. Israel was “chosen” by God for a specific reason:
To demonstrate the gospel and bring God’s Love to the Nations.
3. Defining Grace:
Traditional Wording = “Unmerited Favor”
Revised Wording = *God’s Love in Action*

I. Israel was chosen because *God is Loving* (4:35-38)

- God is a personal and Loving God who reveals himself

- God chose Israel to inherit the gift of the Promised Land as a testimony to His Holiness and Love

II. Israel was chosen because *God is Faithful* (7:6-10)

- Israel was God’s treasured possession (*segullah*), not because of how great and mighty they were...but because God loved them and was faithful to His promises to Abraham.

- God already owns everything. He made it all...but Israel has sentimental value to God...He has an emotional and relational attachment to them. He cherishes them because he has special stock in them.

- Election is not unconditional; it is nullified when God’s love is not returned.

III. Israel was chosen because *God is Righteous* (9:4-6)

- Israel is chosen, not *because* of who they are, but *despite* who they are.

- They were not righteous. They were chosen on the basis of *God’s* righteousness, not their own.

- God loved them for no logical reason, he saved and redeemed them, undeserving as they were.

- They were small in number, weak, worshipped other gods. But God was faithful. He saved them and blessed them despite who they were.

NT Connections: Eph.2:8-10 (Rom.3:21ff; Titus 3:4ff; I Pet.2:9)

- We are chosen by God based on His Grace
- “workmanship” = We are God’s *masterpiece*—that which he takes great pleasure in.
- We are saved, not *by* good works, but *unto* good works

Biblical Principles:

OT: Election by Grace (God’s Love in Action)

NT: Election by Grace (God’s Love in Action)

OT: Righteousness Received, not righteousness achieved

NT: Righteousness Received, not righteousness achieved

OT: God’s Elect are His Special Treasure (*segullah*)

NT: God’s Elect are His Poem (*poiēma*), His *Masterpiece* (NLT)

OT: Chosen *to do* good works, not *because of* good works

NT: Chosen *to do* good works, not *because of* good works

**Even after all that God had done for them, Israel ended up becoming *self-righteous*. The people who were saved in unrighteousness became self-righteous and developed a “holier-than-thou” VIP attitude! They were too righteous to associate with others.

⇒ We must guard against this mindset

⇒ **Our Message is not a Perfect *Church*, but a Perfect *Savior* !**

***** Because of God’s Grace through Jesus, WE are chosen and loved by God. It is on this principle alone that we are saved.**

***** We will never arrive at a point in life where we will be deserving of God’s election...that is why He operates on Grace. God is in the saving business, not us! This is Good News!**

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