

Prophecy Class 2-8 Election

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We have been learning different aspects of Biblical Prophecy, and how it pertains to us now... as world events rush toward God's intended conclusion. Coming soon... in addition to current apostasy in the Church... there will be the war in Ezekiel 38-39... the appearance of the Antichrist... and most important to us... the Rapture.

But, for us to be included in the Rapture of the Church, another, far more ancient prophecy concerns us, individually.

One of God's first prophecies, if not the first... either spoken or thought, by God Himself... before time began, before He even laid the foundation of the World... probably before any creation.

...God's decision to create and choose for Himself a people that He would call... save... and keep for all of time and eternity. In other words... according to the Bible, God chose you... He elected you... you are His 'elect'... He says so... over and over.

Many people recoil at the mention of the Biblical doctrine of election... because if God has elected some as His Own... then it stands to reason that there are also those who are not His elect... and many would claim... that's not fair...

The first thing to understand... if we are to know and appreciate God's incredible love, grace and mercy to us, His children... is that apart from God's grace and mercy... everyone... every person ever born, but Jesus Christ, stands before God as utterly condemned... completely dead in sin, without hope, dead.

This is a foundational truth of Scripture... without Christ, we are... they are... all humans are... dead... in... sin. And, not only dead, but without any goodness whatsoever... that's where so many stumble... no way, they say, there is good in every man... and that... is one of Satan's most successful and enduring lies... ever.

You see... when we think of good... we are only capable of understanding on a human level... from our very limited perspective... but of course a baby is good... of course a nice old lady is good... or your favorite aunt is good... how could they not be good... But we fail to recognize that God sees from His perspective ... anything short of His goodness and righteousness is not good.

Luke... Now a certain ruler asked Jesus, saying,

“Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁹ So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. Jesus was saying... your goodness is not enough for salvation... no one's goodness is... in fact, no one is good, but God.

Here's what the Bible says about man's goodness...

Psa 51:5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Gen 6:5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent... of the thoughts-of-his-heart-*was* only... evil... continually.

Psa 143:2... Here David is speaking to God... Do not enter into judgment with Your servant, For in Your sight no one living is righteous.

Psa 14 The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men,
To see if there are any who understand, who seek God.

³ They have all turned aside, They have together become corrupt;
There is none who does good... No... not one.

Psa 53 He says it again, 39 psalms later... They are corrupt...
and-have-done abominable iniquity;

There is none who does good. ² God looks down from heaven upon
the children of men, To see if there are *any* who understand, who
seek God. ³ Every one of them has turned aside; They have together
become corrupt; *There is none who does good... No... not one.*

Well, I never! That-is-not-the-God... I serve... maybe not... but it is
God of the Bible...

Ecc 9:3 Truly the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil; madness
is in their hearts while they live, and after that *they go* to the dead.

Jer 17:9 “The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, And desperately
wicked; who can know it?

Rom 8:7 ...the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not
subject to the law of God, nor indeed can it be. ⁸ So then, those who
are in the flesh cannot please God.

Eph 4:17 you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk,
in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ having their understanding darkened,
being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that
is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; ¹⁹ who, being
past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all
uncleanness with greediness.

Eph 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

John 8:34 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.

Every person... ever born... is a slave... to sin... so were you.

Paul tells the Christians in Rome, they were all slaves to sin...

Rom 6:20 when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things *is* death... For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 John 5 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies *under the sway of* the wicked one.

Eph 2:1 And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

Rom 6:6 Paul says we were slaves to sin...

The point is... apart from Jesus Christ... all are dead in sin.... all stand condemned... apart from Christ... all are headed to hell.

Here is the reality... after Adam sinned... every other human sinned... all fail to meet God's standard of perfection. God would have been fully righteous if He had allowed every human to die and go to hell. Wouldn't He... for all have sinned and come short of the glory of /God... for the wages of sin is death.

God's Word says... all stand condemned and headed for hell...

We also see from Scripture that God elects and chooses whomever He will, for His own purposes... and not according to any person's merit or deserving of His grace, because no one deserves His grace.

He has elected angels...

I Ti 5:21 Paul tells Timothy... I charge *you* before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels... did you know that... there are elect angels, and there are non elect angels...

Michael, Gabriel and so many others... they are elect angels... Lucifer and so many others... are not elect angels...

His nation... Israel... is His elect nation among all the nations of the world...

Ex 6:7 I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD your God

Deut 7 “For you *are* a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you... to be a people for Himself, a special treasure... above all the peoples on the face of the earth. ⁷ The LORD did not set His love on you... nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; ⁸ but because the LORD loves you.

God did not choose Israel because they are special in any way...
the Jews are special... because God chose them.

isa 43

To give drink to My people, My chosen. ²¹This people I have
formed for Myself; They shall declare My praise.

I don't think anyone would deny that God chose and elected Israel
out of all the unelected nations of the Earth... as His special loved
possession... no other nation on earth, throughout all time has been
chosen by God as His special possession. And, we find throughout
Scripture, that God has never cast Israel aside... He promised to
love and keep Israel and eventually bless them above all the nations
of the Earth... even in the face of their constant rejection of Him...

The perfect picture of God's faithfulness to Israel... and to us... is
the book of Hosea...

God told Hosea to marry Gomer... a prostitute... and to love her in
the face of her continued unfaithfulness... the picture of God's
unfailing loyal love for Israel... His elect nation... and us also...

His elect people... the true Church.

over and over... He calls us His elect... and... that no one comes to
Him unless He draws them... unless they are elect, chosen by Him...

No fair...

too bad...

When we say... unfair... not right... whatever... we are displaying
unbelievable arrogance and pride... to think that we can challenge
God and His way of doing things... we cannot hope to even begin to
understand how God thinks and acts...

Isa 55:8 “For **My** thoughts *are* not **your** thoughts, **your** ways are not **My** ways,” says the LORD.

⁹ “For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts higher than your thoughts.

John 15:16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you

John 6:37 ³⁷ All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. ³⁹ This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise them up at the last day.

Acts 13:48 Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had-been-appointed-to-eternal-life... believed. R. It does not say... all who believed were appointed to eternal life... no... it says, all who were appointed to eternal life... believed. No one else has ever believed.

Don't you ever wonder... how is it that so many don't believe what we know is true... are they stupid... are they blind... are they deaf..

Yes they are... they are spiritually dead.

Rom 8:28-30 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God... to those who are **the called**... according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Past, present and future... it is all one complete done deal in God's mind... in His purpose... Who shall bring a charge against God's elect?

For whom-He-**foreknew**... what about this **foreknowing**... many say... what God actually did is look forward through time... to see who would respond to His Gospel... those that would... then became His elect... He knew what was going to happen. But

That is not what the Word means... the word is.. *proginōskō* from the root *Gnosis*... deep intimate knowledge... the word is used to connote sexual intimacy between husband and wife. Here, it is not simply knowing beforehand what will happen, but rather, beforehand intimately **knowing** someone... even before they are created.

to know someone intimately

the word for knowing facts is completely different... eido (A) I know that something will happen gnosko... I know Debbie.

God knew us intimately and chose us and elected us and then called us and drew us to Himself at the proper time... and it is only according to God's choice and purpose... not according to any person's deserving or goodness...

*Here's the passage that says it all... Romans 9... when Rebecca also had conceived ...for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil... that the purpose of God... according to election... might stand... not of works... but of Him who calls... it was said to her, "The older shall serve the younger." ¹³ As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated... before they were even born... What shall we say then? *Is there* unrighteousness*

with God? Certainly not! ¹⁵ For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion." ¹⁶ So then *it is* not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. ¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth." ¹⁸ Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens..... ¹⁹ You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?" ²⁰ But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed *it*, "Why have you made me like this?" ²¹ Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor? ²² *What* if God, wanting to show *His* wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience and longsuffering... the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³ and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, ²⁴ even us whom He called?

Here is the other side, according to God's Word... He created and chose some... as vessels of mercy... whom He would glorify... and also others... He created as vessels of wrath... to go to destruction... and He even hardens them... I don't understand it ... but this... I do understand... God's Word says so...

Rom 11 Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace. ⁶ And if by grace, then *it is* no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if *it is* of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.

Its one or the other... either salvation is of our works... or salvation is of God's grace... God says it is ONLY of His grace and choice.

⁷ What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded. ⁸ Just as it is written: "God has given them a spirit of stupor, Eyes that they should not see... and ears that they should not hear, To this very day."

I agree completely... it's not fair... according to our human understanding.

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 should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved... ¹¹ In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

1 Thes 5 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ

1 Pet 2 They stumble... being disobedient to the word, to-which-they-also-were-appointed.

2 Tim 1 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord... 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 given to us in Christ Jesus before time began... Paul told Timothy... don't be ashamed of that... God doesn't need you to defend Him to anyone...

Paul said, I am not ashamed of the Gospel... it is the power of God unto salvation... Many people are ashamed of the Gospel... ashamed of the hard parts of His Word... ashamed to identify with someone, even God, Who would choose some and reject others...

John 6 And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father."

⁶⁶ From that *time* many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

A reason we cry unfair... because each of us knows that in reality... we really don't deserve His grace and mercy and love and salvation... but He chose to love us and save us anyway... and we think... if I should be saved... why shouldn't they... it's not fair... it's not fair!

I am so blessed and glad that God is not fair... because if He was fair... I would most assuredly now...be dead in hell.

1 Pet 1 ¹³ Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.... Our hope is in God's grace... our hope and salvation are not based on any goodness or holiness in us or goodness that we do or don't do.

Birth and resurrection... Why does the Bible so often use these two concepts as regards our salvation..... our new birth... being born again and our resurrection in Christ... raised with Christ... from spiritual death... from death... not unconsciousness... death...

When a child is born... it is only of the will of the parents who chose to conceive and to give birth... the baby did nothing to contribute to his own birth... he was powerless and without choice in the full matter. The same is true of our birth... salvation is God's work and only God's work... Jesus Christ... the author and finisher of our faith... author... instigator, beginner of... and finisher... he alone also completes it...

resurrection from the dead... we were raised with Christ... resurrected to new life in Him... a corpse... a dead body is in no way capable of contributing to his own resurrection ... a dead body cannot think, it cannot chose, it cannot decide... until it is given life.

When Jesus called out... Lazarus, come forth! What did Lazarus contribute to own his resurrection... during those past 3 days in the tomb? How much of Lazarus' will and ability was involved in that?

The thing created has no power or part in its own creation... The earth had no part in its own creation. The one resurrected has no part in his own resurrection. That's just the very nature of things.

Either God determines reality or man does...

Either God determines who is His elect, or man does...

if man does... how does a non-existent person determine and cause his own birth... how does a dead person... a corpse... determine and cause his own resurrection... how does he raise Himself from the dead?

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new... doesn't say all things should be new... no... all things are new, whether you feel like it or not... whether it looks like it or not...

Eph 2:4-10 ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in sin, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For ***we*** are ***His*** workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Created in Christ Jesus ***for*** good works... ***not***... created in Christ Jesus ***because*** of good works.

But why did He do it? Let's go back to Rom 9:22... But what if God, wanting to show *His* wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience and longsuffering the vessels of wrath... prepared for destruction... that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, ²⁴ even us whom He called?

As we have learned previously... God's eternal purpose... all surrounds one primary focus... the Glory of God... that God would be glorified... anything else would be for Him to deny His own perfection, righteousness and complete Holiness... He cannot deny Himself... He cannot.

Every aspect, every attribute of God is Holy and must be glorified... that includes His goodness, His grace, His holiness, His immutability... He never changes, His love, His omnipotence... His having all power... His omniscience.. His knowing everything... His omnipresence... His being everywhere always... His righteousness... all that He does is right and good... His sovereignty... He is king and ruler over all that is... He does as He pleases... when He pleases... and all that He pleases... and it is all good...

and also... His wrath... you see His wrath is just as central and important as every other attribute of God... He will be glorified in His holy wrath... His hatred of evil and sin... as it is finally... finally... poured out on sinful angels and on sinful men and women, while His grace, mercy and love will all be glorified when He is finally pouring them out... without measure... on us... His chosen ones, His children... throughout all eternity.

Let me give you one example of the arrogance of man imagining he can think on God's level, denying God's sovereignty... after the 9-11 attacks on the World Trade Center... Rick Warren had this to say... *"This was not God's will... In a world of free choices, God's will is rarely done!"* R That is staggeringly arrogant... In Rick-Warren's-world... God is the constant victim of man's choices and actions... God is always picking up the pieces and reluctantly moving on to

plan B and then on to plan C, or plan W or plan Z... but His perfect will is not happening on Earth. Poor God...

God is accomplishing His will within His plan completely... at all times... in all places... no one can thwart or stop His will... no one... not you, not me, not Lucifer, not anyone... or anything.

John 6 Again... And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father." ⁶⁶ From that *time* many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

Many withdrew from Jesus when He said... no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father... because that attacks something very basic... something integral to our being... how we see ourselves... There is good in me... I am good enough, I am smart enough, I am thinking enough that I can at least decide to be a Christian... can't I... there is some good in me... and everyone...

But you ask... doesn't the Bible say, "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... doesn't that mean anyone can believe and be saved?

Doesn't that say that God loves everyone the same?

No, actually it doesn't... there's a reason why the Bible speaks of Israel as the betrothed wife of God... an unfaithful wife... but still loved... still cared for still cherished and protected...

There's a reason why the Bible refers to us... the Church... true believers... as the bride of Christ... there's a reason why Paul told

husbands to love their wives as Christ loves the Church, and gave Himself up for HER... that HE might sanctify and cleanse her... that HE might **present her to Himself** a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing ... holy and without blemish. He is telling husbands... you are to love your wife in a very special way... the very special way that I love My Church... My chosen ones... I don't love the world in the special way that I love My own... and you are not to love other women in the very special way that I command you to love your wife. My love of my wife is my choice, my wife was all my choice... my choice to ask her to marry me...

Do you see... His love of us is His choice... Our salvation is His choice... our being cleansed and purified is by His choice and His work... He is doing it...

Phil 2:13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

He wills and works in and through us...

but don't we have free will to do as we please...

the Bible says that all men have a will... but every person's will is in bondage... man's will is enslaved... it is either a slave to sin and bondage... or it is a slave to righteousness and freedom.

When God created Adam... He said, "Let us make man in our image and likeness..."

God is tripartite... 3 persons in one God... Father, Son and Holy Spirit... diagram

He created man as tripartite... 3 persons in one man... a soul inside a fleshly body and inside a spirit body... diagram

He told Adam, in the day that you sin, you will die... They did die ... their spiritual selves died... they were then only bipartite... a soul within a body of flesh... and that flesh was completely sinful throughout... that's what the Bible teaches... and so Adam's and all of His descendants were then born as souls within bodies of flesh... having no spirit... that's why the Bible says... the carnal man cannot understand the things of the spirit... for spiritual things are discerned by the spirit only. The soul, the will the thinking, the person is enslaved within that sinful body of flesh... no way out, no hope, no future...

1 Pet 1... But thanks be to God... who redeemed us... not with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold ... ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. ²⁰ He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you ²¹ who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God... having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever

When God, who had chosen us before the foundation of the world... at the proper time... called us and drew us to Himself... saving us and giving us eternal life... He created in us a NEW Spirit... a unique spirit which is us, each individually... but is also, ONE with His Holy Spirit... a husband and wife become one, the Bible says... We are now one with God... we are now spiritually alive... able to understand the things of the Spirit... having eternal life... the same eternal life of God... He has created in us... and we will live forever with Him and be like the Lord Jesus Christ.

It's not fair! let's go back to Rom 9... *What* if God, wanting to show *His* wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³ and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, ²⁴ even us whom He called,

Vessels of wrath prepared for destruction...

Vessels of Mercy which He had prepared... beforehand for glory.

It says they're both prepared... the same preparation?... in English, yes... in Greek... no... two completely different words and word tenses..

Let's put on our 8th grade English hats...

In the Greek here, the preparation of the vessels of wrath... the unsaved is... ka-tar-**ti**-zo... to render, to mend, to complete... to fit or frame for one's self... to prepare... however, the voice and tense here is... perfect participle... passive voice... what that means is... it is an action having to do with the subject... the unsaved vessel of wrath... and the passive voice means that it is not something that God is doing or has done... they have fitted themselves as vessels of wrath for destruction by their own doing... their own unforgiven sin

For the vessels of mercy... us... the elect of God... prepared beforehand... for glory... the word is pro-me-toi-**ah**-zo... to prepare before, to make ready beforehand... and the tense is... simple past-tense indicative... active voice... in other words... our preparation unto glory is an objective fact... fully accomplished in the past actively done by God... we didn't do it ourselves... He did...

Here is what the Bible teaches... before God created the world... He planned to glorify Himself through angels and humans... and He would glorify Himself through the elect and the nonelect alike... He would glorify His love, grace, mercy and patience through those He elected and chose for Himself... a people..., His people whom He would save, preserve and prepare for eternal glory... to live with Him forever... but He would also glorify His holiness, His righteousness and His Wrath through all those created, but not elect... angels and men alike. And He would do it as He pleases with no accountability to any man or angel... He is beyond reproach, beyond questioning and beyond any hope of understanding until He reveals Himself to those whom He has chosen...

He is not fair... according to man's exalted standards and way of thinking... but He is Holy and righteous and good in every way... He is the very definition of... inscrutable... beyond comprehension.

If we fail to understand and believe this reality... we can never hope to understand God's love, grace, mercy and patience toward us... to the extent that He has revealed those things... to us... through Scripture.