**DEEP DIVE ON THE DOCTRINE OF ELECTION**3.13.22

1. **Definition – What is the doctrine of election?**

*This doctrine states that God chose whom He would save, and that God’s choice precedes any consideration of our faith or works (Fred Zaspel)*

1. **Preliminaries**
	1. We must properly honor the manner in which God has presented this doctrine in the Bible (i.e. language, flow of thought, prioritizing, and uses)
	2. Often the plainest, most straight-forward reading of the text contains the right interpretation of the text.
	3. We must submit every human framework (philosophical, cultural, personal/ relational) to God’s Word.
	4. We must affirm God’s sovereignty AND human responsibility at every turn, while acknowledging that some passages call us to consider one side or the other.
	5. The doctrine of election is rooted in the doctrine of God AND the doctrine of salvation.
2. **Election in the OT** (Deut. 7:6-8; 9:4-6; 2 Sam. 7:8-16; Isa. 41:8-16, 42:1-9, 43:1-3, 44:1-5; cf. Rom. 9:10-13)
	1. Recognize this doctrine is embedded in the phrases, images, objects, and discourse of the Old Testament.
	2. Deut. 7:6-8. *Why did God choose Israel?*
	3. Isa. 43:1-3. *What is God’s intention in bringing up His election of Israel?*
	4. Rom 9:10-13. *What is Paul saying about election here, based on the story of Jacob & Esau?*

* 1. Conclusions:

1. **Election in the NT** (Jn. 6:36-40; Rom. 8:29-30; 1 Cor. 1; Eph. 1:3-6, 2 Tim. 1:9, Rev. 17:8)
	1. Jn 6:36-40, 10:16, 26-28. *What imagery does Jesus use to describe election?*
	2. Rom 8:29-30. *What are the 5 things God does here?*
	3. Eph 1:3-6. *How would you describe Paul’s heart as he talks about election?*
	4. Conclusions:
2. **Application of the Doctrine of Election**
	1. Ponder the Nature of God
	2. Recognize Our Great Privilege

* 1. Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow
	2. Recognize the Beautiful Contours of Our Relationship with God
	3. Act in view of God’s Great Salvation
1. **Common Objections to the Doctrine of Election**
	1. Do we choose God, or does He choose us?
	2. Why doesn’t God choose to save everyone? Are people really destined for hell? Why would God ordain or even allow such a thing?
	3. Why should we pray or evangelize, if God is completely sovereign in salvation? Aren’t we all basically just puppets?

**How Sweet & Aweful Is the Place (Isaac Watts)**

How sweet and aweful is this place
With Christ within the doors,
While everlasting love displays
The choicest of her stores!

Here every bowel of our God
With soft compassion rolls;
Here peace and pardon bought with blood
Is food for dying souls.

While all our hearts and all our songs
Join to admire the feast,
Each of us cry, with thankful tongues,
"Lord, why was I a guest?

"Why was I made to hear Thy voice,
And enter while there's room,
When thousands make a wretched choice,
And rather starve than come?"

'Twas the same love that spread the feast
That sweetly drew us in;
Else we had still refused to taste,
And perished in our sin.

Pity the nations, O our God!
Constrain the earth to come;
Send Thy victorious Word abroad,
And bring the strangers home.

We long to see Thy churches full,
That all the chosen race
May with one voice, and heart and soul,
Sing Thy redeeming grace.

**For Further Study / Works Cited**

* Matthew Barrett and Thomas Nettles, *Whomever He Wills*
* Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, Vol.2, p.337–405
* Joel Beeke and Paul Smalley, *Reformed Systematic Theology Vol 1.,* p.979-1057
* A. Philip Brown II, “Election in the Old Testament”
* John Calvin, “[The Doctrine of Election](http://www.the-highway.com/Doctrine_of_Election.html)”
* Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, p.669–91
* Douglas Moo, *The Epistle to the Romans*, p.532–34
* A. W. Pink, *The Sovereignty of God*
* John Piper, “[Five Reasons to Embrace Unconditional Election](https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/five-reasons-to-embrace-unconditional-election)”
* John Reisinger, “The Doctrine of Election” (Parts 1 & 2)
* Thomas Schreiner, *Romans*, p.451–453
* Thomas Schreiner and Bruce Ware, eds., *Still Sovereign*
* Sam Storms, *Chosen for Life*
* Geerhardus Vos, *Reformed Dogmatics*, Vol.1, p.77–154
* B. B. Warfield, “[Election](http://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/pdf/warfield_election.pdf)”
* B. B. Warfield, *The Works of B.B. Warfield*, vol.2, p.1–67
* Fred Zaspel, “Election”