

# Article 11\_Election

## Background

In Article 8:1 it is stated that Adam was created by God in His image - holy, righteous, and possessing true knowledge - ...

Holy and Righteous - While Adam possessed these characteristics, they were not intrinsic to Adam (or any other created being) as they are to God.

Possessing true knowledge - Adam was created innocent - without the knowledge of good or evil and fellowshiped directly with God (Gen 3:8) without shame (Gen 2:25).

*“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.” [Pro 1:7 ESV]*

Adam was not blinded by any darkness and so his relationship with God was \_\_\_\_\_ - he was truly “\_\_\_\_\_”

## Freedom vs. Autonomy

- Adam was free from bondage to sin and any hint of darkness, but was not free in the sense of autonomy which means “\_\_\_\_\_”. Only God is autonomous.

The potential for the fall - At what point did God create the potential for the fall?

*“16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die. ”” [Gen 2:16-17 ESV]*

This was the first law given by God to man - What was the purpose?

## The Origin of Sin

The reality is that God, in His sovereignty, \_\_\_\_\_ the potential for the fall, (as He ordains all things) otherwise He is not sovereign.

Does this mean that God is the author of sin?

*“For you are not a God who delights in \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_ may not dwell with you.” [Psa 5:4 ESV]*

*“Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by \_\_\_\_\_," for \_\_\_\_\_ cannot be tempted with evil, and \_\_\_\_\_ tempts no one.” [Jas 1:13 ESV]*

So where did the desire to move in disobedience come from? It is a \_\_\_\_\_!

## The Result of Sin

“you shall surely die” - the process of physical death began but spiritual death was \_\_\_\_\_!

The nature of natural man was permanently altered to \_\_\_\_\_, but God instantly displayed His \_\_\_\_\_:

*“And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.” [Gen 3:21 ESV]*

*“Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever--” [Gen 3:22 ESV]*

He also gave the first prophecy concerning the victory that Christ would win on the cross - Gen 3:1

Man was left “\_\_\_\_\_ in trespasses and sin” (Eph 2:1), but how dead is dead? Is there any light left in natural humanity?

*“2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience-- 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.” [Eph 2:2-3 ESV]*

Paul’s most extreme \_\_\_\_\_ of man was written in Romans 3:10-18 in which he quoted from a series of OT texts on the character, speech and conduct of fallen humanity:

*“10 as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” 13 “Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.” “The venom of asps is under their lips.” 14 “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.” 15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 in their paths are ruin and misery, 17 and the way of peace they have not known.” 18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”” [Rom 3:10-18 ESV]*

Why is this a hard thing for us to grasp? Is there really no one who does good?

*“18 And a ruler asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 19 And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. 20 You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.’ ” 21 And he said, “All these I have kept from my youth.” 22 When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” 23 But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich. 24 Jesus, seeing that he had become sad, said, “How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! 25 For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” 26 Those who heard it said, “Then who can be saved?” 27 But he said, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.”” [Luk 18:18-27 ESV]*

## No man is “good”

Even when \_\_\_\_\_ men do “good” things it is not with the glory of God in mind. The first four commandments establish that God’s glory and the worship of Him is to be exclusive and eternal. Anything that falls short of \_\_\_\_\_ is not good.

## ARTICLE 11 - ELECTION

11-1 Election is a free act of the sovereign God in which from eternity,<sup>1</sup> for reasons known only to Himself,<sup>2</sup> and apart from any foreseen faith and / or goodness found in man,<sup>3</sup> He graciously chose from among the fallen mankind a people unto salvation, that they may be conformed to Christ’s image.<sup>4</sup> Those so chosen He redeemed by His Son<sup>5</sup> and seals by His Spirit.<sup>6</sup>

### What Is Election?

Election (eklogē) - the act of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_; a thing or person chosen

*“10 And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, 11 though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad--in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls-- 12 she was told, "The older will serve the younger." 13 As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated." 14 What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means!” [Rom 9:10-14 ESV]*

His election is based on His free will for His purposes; He is \_\_\_\_\_ to nothing!

*“15 For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." 16 So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." 18 So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.” [Rom 9:15-18 ESV]*

Election used in the Bible: Of rulers by lot (Neh 11:1); Of grace (Jhn 15:16; 17:6; Eph 1:4; 2:10; 2Th2:13) Of Christ as Messiah (Isa 42:1; 1Pe2:6) Of good angels (1Tim 5:21) Of Israel (Deu 7:6; Isa 45:4) Of ministers (Luk 6:13; Act 9:15)

### God is Sovereign

Election is a free act of the sovereign God...

Only God is sovereign; there is no other and \_\_\_\_\_ that is created is \_\_\_\_\_ to Him as Creator:

9 “remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'” [Isa 46:9-10 ESV]

“10 Therefore David blessed the LORD in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. 11 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. 12 Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.” [1Ch 29:10-12 ESV]

“34 At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; 35 all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"” [Dan 4:34-35 ESV]

“33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! 34 "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" 35 "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" 36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.” [Rom 11:33-36 ESV]

## When Did God Elect?

Election is a free act of the sovereign God in which from eternity,

In the Romans 9 passage we just read Paul states "though they were not yet born" and in Ephesians Paul writes:

“3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ... 11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,” [Eph 1:3-6, 11 ESV]

## How Did God Elect?

Election is a free act of the sovereign God in which from eternity, for reasons known only to Himself,

Jesus is quoted repeatedly in the gospels as making it clear that those who come to Him and the Father do so by \_\_\_\_\_:

*“All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal [Him.]” [Mat 11:27 NASB]*

*“25 Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me. 26 “But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. 27 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. 29 “My Father, who has given [them] to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch [them] out of the Father's hand. 30 “I and the Father are one. ”” [Jhn 10:25-30 NASB]*

Election is a free act of the sovereign God in which from eternity, for reasons known only to Himself, and apart from any foreseen faith and / or goodness found in man,

*“8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with [me] in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, 9 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 granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,”[2Ti 1:8-9 NASB]*

*“4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly [places] in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in 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 as a result of works, so that no one may boast. [Eph 2:4-9 NASB]*

Faith itself is not \_\_\_\_\_ by human will, power or intuition; it is supernatural as it comes from God. (see Matt 16:17; 1Cor 2:14; Jhn 1:12-13)

Paul anticipates the \_\_\_\_\_ of fallen man and speaks to God's total authority in the matter:

*“19 You will say to me then, “Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?” 20 But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?” 21 Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? 22 What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory--” [Rom 9:19-23 ESV]*

## Why Did God Elect?

Election is a free act of the sovereign God in which from eternity, for reasons known only to Himself, and apart from any foreseen faith and / or goodness found in man, He graciously chose from among the fallen mankind a people unto salvation, that they may be conformed to Christ's image.

*“28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to [His] purpose. 29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined [to become] conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;” [Rom 8:28-29 NASB]*

*“to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.” [Eph 1:12 NASB]*

*11 And He gave some [as] apostles, and some [as] prophets, and some [as] evangelists, and some [as] pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. [Eph 4:11-13 NASB]*

## How Does Election Become Salvation?

Election is a free act of the sovereign God in which from eternity, for reasons known only to Himself, and apart from any foreseen faith and / or goodness found in man, He graciously chose from among the fallen mankind a people unto salvation, that they may be conformed to Christ's image. Those so chosen He redeemed by His Son,

*13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. 14 It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. [2Th 2:13-14 NASB]*

Paul writes of how what has been determined in eternity becomes a \_\_\_\_\_ in time and space:

*29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined [to become] conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. [Rom 8:29-30 NASB]*

This is not “\_\_\_\_\_” - it is a predetermined matter.

Predestination is the \_\_\_\_\_ through which that election becomes a reality in time and space - The “new birth” = inward new man and outward confession and fruit

Called - the moment the gospel is “\_\_\_\_\_” and becomes a reality through the work of the Holy Spirit

Justified - Through the blood of Christ, the entire \_\_\_\_\_ of the redeemed is paid for in full!

Glorified - When what has been paid for and sealed becomes \_\_\_\_\_.

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*13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of [God's own] possession, to the praise of His glory. [Eph 1:13-14 NASB]*

*12 For even as the body is one and [yet] has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. [1Co 12:12-13 NASB]*