

Are you one of the “Elect” of God?

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When Christ sends his angels at His return to gather his “elect,” will you be one of the elect brethren picked up by a holy angel and taken to Yeshua/Jesus? Are you sure? Is it important to be part of the “elect”? Are they just a tiny fraction of all believers? Who are “the elect”? How does one become a part of the Elect? Are you really valuing being part of the chosen elect? We’ll cover all that and more today.

Greetings everyone. Philip Shields here, host of Light on the Rock. Be sure you register and once you do, you can leave comments, which we’d love to read from you. If our messages inspire and teach you, please tell others.

Matthew 24:29-31

"Immediately AFTER the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

31 And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His ELECT from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” (also Mark 13:24-27).

So the ones gathered together will be “the ELECT” (verse 31), which we’ll talk about today. You and I definitely want to be part of the Elect of God. What does that mean? Who are they? Are YOU part of the Elect?

Paul of course Peter, discuss the Elect as being the brethren they met with at church! You can read for **yourself Col. 3:12; 1 Peter 1:2, Romans 8:33** for example. Paul says those who will be caught up to be with the Lord at his return are those brethren who remain alive at Christ’s return.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

“ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

So yes, we certainly want to be part of God's "elect" who are gathered up at his return. **Important: the Greek word for "elect" is also translated as "chosen"** in the KJV and others, several times, as in the statement that "many are called, but few are **chosen.**" **The words "chosen" and "elect" come from the same Greek word *eklektos*.** And those who return to earth with Christ are the "called, chosen (elect) and faithful" (**Rev. 17:14**).

The word "elect" in Greek is Strong's # 1588, *eklektos* (ek-lek-tos'); from **NT:1586**; select; by implication, favorite.

It's translated in KJV/NKJV as either "elect" or "chosen."

(Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary)

The word **eklektos** in Greek is used **22x** in the New Testament. It's usually translated "**elect**" but also at times it's translated as "**chosen,**" and almost always referring to brethren and sometimes to God's holy angels.

But "elect" and "chosen" are almost always from *eklektos* in Greek.

Remember Jesus gave a progression: first we have to be called, or invited -- then some are chosen, but many are not chosen. More on being invited, or called -- and "chosen" in a minute. Remember "many are called, but few are chosen." (Matthew 22:14).

Let this really sink in: The Bible tells us that only one Being in the whole universe decides on who will be called at this time, in this age, to be among the firstfruits and first resurrection. Only ONE Being does it: and that's **God the Father**, or God Most High. *Not even Jesus calls people except those Father has first already given him to work with.* God the Most High makes that decision to call. And He called YOU. ***

If we understood this correctly, you should be almost shocked, in awe, humbled, and honored!

John 6:44

"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day."

Then in verse 65:

"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."

So our Father decides who to call - or DRAW in. THANK God our Father over and over for calling you. Father then gives us to Jesus to work with – John 6:65, who then is given the task of REVEALING The FATHER to us.

John 14:6

Yeshua said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. *NO one comes to the Father except through me.*"

Only by the name of Jesus can we be saved (Acts 4:12).

Preachers can preach at people til they are "blue in the face" – but unless God is calling them and opening their mind to understand spiritual things, all the preaching in the world will go nowhere. Of course, but neither do we always know who Father is calling, so we do preach and evangelize.

The DIFFERENCE between being "CALLED" or "CHOSEN"

Let me say again: God does the calling, every time. He does not even delegate that to Jesus.

So STEP 1 is we must first be called - -before we can be among **the chosen**, or among the **elect**, same word, same meaning.

What an honor that is to first be *called* by God, then to be *chosen*, or part of the "elect."

Imagine, out of the eight BILLION + people on earth, God Most High *personally invited* or called *you* to be part of the Wedding Supper of his Son. Wow! So God alone does the calling. You received a wedding invitation **with RSVP** on it – meaning "*repondez s'il vous plait*" – French for "Please respond" or reply. YOU got that invitation. What an HONOR!

You probably have received some wedding invitations over the years. Sometimes you felt honored, other times you felt you really didn't care to go, and sometimes you just forgot about it, but other times you responded right away with JOY and feeling honored!

Someone decided to invite you to their wedding. *But YOU have to be the one to decide to go or not.* YOU can either say "no thanks" – or you can say, "Yes, I'll be so *honored* to come be part of your wedding".

Sometimes if God particularly wants YOU – He may keep at it until you respond. Saul – we know as Paul – comes to mind. Jesus when calling him on the road to Damascus, asked him, "WHY ARE YOU resisting my goading? Why do you kick against my goads, my pricks at you?" (Acts 9:5 NKJV – much of v 5 and 6 are omitted in most translations, so read it in NKJV or KJV).

So God in his mercy I believe sometimes keeps at it when calling some of us who delay responding. It appears that God *may* have called **Abram** twice too before he fully responded. Remember Abram stopped halfway to the promised land and stayed in Haran until his father died, then God had to call him again to leave his family and go where God wanted him (read **Genesis 11:31-32; Gen 12:1-5**). So don't treat your calling lightly!

Matthew 22:1-10

And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: **2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, 3 and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come.**

Could this be referring to the Jews who were first called and most did not respond...?

4 Again, he sent out other servants, saying, "Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding." 5 **But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business.** 6 And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. 7 But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

8 Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready, *but those who were invited were not worthy.* 9 Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' 10 So those servants went out into the highways and **gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests."**

Then in verse 14

14 "For MANY are called, but few are CHOSEN."

When you put this all together, God invites, God CALLS quite a lot – but only a very few decide to actually accept the calling and to show up at the wedding.

Now get this: Those who accept God's calling, are those who are CHOSEN. God invites us, He sends the RSVP – and then WE must choose to go or not. YOU and I have a lot to do with whether we are chosen or not – by our decisions.

How seriously are YOU taking your calling? Is it front and center of your life?

So, get this – if you are one of those honored persons whom God has called to His Son’s wedding, *the next step is yours*. Will you respond with “Yes, I’ll be there” or just ignore the card and you don’t respond positively? If you positively respond, you’ll be one of the chosen, one of the ELECT – or “eklektos” of God.

It's not easy to respond positively to your invitation to be chosen. Many of Jesus’ stories and parables dwelt on this. **The Parable of the Sower is a good example (Matthew 13:18-24)**. Some who received the SEED of GOD’S word let the birds eat it, or let the THORNS of life choke the growth of the word – because they were more concerned and side-tracked with worries, and cares of this life and pleasures and riches.

So when we receive the word of God, we want to receive His word with a mind that is fertile soil, appreciating that seed. We have GOD’S WORD literally; we all have His Bible. Many of you have it on your cell phone and computer even. How much time each DAY do we spend valuing it so much that we study it, a lot, daily? Do we *meditate* on his law night and day like David says in Psalm 1:2-3 and become like a tree planted by the rivers of water, bearing fruit.

By the way, we work with people in East Africa and so many make almost nothing, so it’s hard for them all to have a Bible. We’ve bought them hundreds of Bibles, and as we shepherd **about 3,500 people in three countries** and we need hundreds more Bibles if you wish to help us with a donation.

Yeshua also said that WIDE is the way that leads to destruction. It’s EASY to seek sinful pleasures. Easy to worry and not trust God. Easy to ignore your calling. But narrow and hard is the way that leads to life (**Matthew 7:13-14**).

BUT – those who DO respond, who do SEEK after God, they become **the CHOSEN of God. They become, the ELECT of God. Chosen and Elect – both words come from the Greek “eklektos.”**

Don’t be like the Roman Procurator Felix, before whom Paul spoke – and then Felix said this:

Acts 24:24-26

And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. 25 **Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you."**

Having to keep God's sabbath keeps many from answering His call because it's hard to get a respectable job sometimes when you can't work on Saturdays.

So make sure you give God a definite and positive, and thrilled, "Yes my God, I am *thrilled* that you have invited and called me to the wedding supper of your Son, and I'd be so honored to be there. I'm coming! Count me in!"

Those are like the five wise virgins who had extra oil, trimmed their lamps, and went into the wedding (**Matthew 25:1-11**) and then the door was shut. The foolish virgins did not give careful enough heed to their calling, were not prepared, and were turned down from entering, with Jesus saying, "I don't know you" (**Matthew 25:9-10**). The wise virgins were ELECT saints (**Rev. 19:8**) who are definitely in the wedding supper.

So if you know God is opening your mind, is inviting you – consider that calling as such a high, high calling you can't just dismiss. Seek God with all your heart, first thing every day. Make your calling and election sure!

You are one of the elect. Don't blow it!

Colossians 3:12-14 NKJV

"Therefore, as the ELECT of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection."

NIV says of Verse 12 "Therefore, as God's CHOSEN people...."

1 Peter 2:9

"But YOU are a **chosen [same word as "elect"] **generation**, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, **His own special people**, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light"**

Wow! Do you see yourself in that description? Chosen generation, royal priests, holy nation, special people?

2 Peter 1:5-11

"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge **self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of**

our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

10 Therefore, brethren, **be even more diligent to make your call and election SURE**, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

2 Peter 1:10-11 NIV

“Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to **make your calling and election sure**. For if you do these things, you will never fall, 11 **and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**”.

We have such a great calling. Because of the Elect brethren, those who are the true chosen of God, God actually shortens the final days of earth so He can intervene before all human life is destroyed (**Matthew 24:22**).

At the last trump, the dead in Christ are resurrected from the dead. The “dead in Christ” are those who died having declared their faith and trust in Jesus – and lived out that faith in their daily lives. They are raised first, then we who remain alive will be changed in an instant from flesh and blood to an incorruptible, spirit body that will never die. This mortal puts on immortality. **But this happens only to the elect.**

We will all have new spirit glorious bodies like Yeshua’s own glorious body!

Philippians 3:20-21 HOLMAN Bible

“but our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

21 **He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of His glorious body**, by the power that enables Him to subject everything to Himself.

Then, when Jesus Christ returns suddenly and unexpectedly, His holy angels zoom down to pick up every elect, chosen child of God who have been changed to spirit, and will transport us safely to be with Christ. That happens in an instant, at the last trump, according to 1 Cor. 15. It happens suddenly like in the blink of an eye.

Then we, today’s elect or chosen children of God, along with the elect of thousands of years ago who died in Christ, will all be taken

up to the third heaven, to the very throne room of God! This is clearly shown in **Rev. 14:1-5; 15:1-5**, and we will not have to go through the seven final bowl plagues of Revelation 16. **Be sure to check out my 2-part sermons on the First resurrection** and also on the truth about **the pre-trib rapture**. **There is no pre-trib rapture**, and I'll prove it if you just study it.

But yes, **you are part of the elect IF you responded positively to your high calling** from God the Father himself, *and are cherishing that high calling*. At that instant you and I become one of the chosen, one of the "eklektos" or "elect" of God. Hallelujah, praise God.

Now let's put the sequence together: First we're called by God, then WE have to choose to answer his call if we want to be among the chosen, the elect, and be at that Wedding Supper of the Lamb. Then we must remain FAITHFUL to the end.

Revelation 17:12-14

"The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. 13 These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for **He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, CHOSEN (elect), and faithful."**

The word "chosen" in Rev. 17:14 is once again the Greek word "eklektos" – ELECT of God. Yes, you can be there too!

So yes, focus on being among the called, chosen (Elect) and Faithful with Christ. Amen.