

Election: God's or Man's?

- I. The national election.
 - A. Background information.
 1. The campaign rhetoric.
 - a) The Democrats say George Bush is an illegitimate President.
 - (1) He "stole" the election through the Supreme Court.
 - (2) He "stole" the election because every vote wasn't counted.
 - (3) He lied to the American people about Iraq.
 - (4) He hasn't kept his campaign promises.
 - b) The Republicans say John Kerry is not fit to be President.
 - (1) He doesn't have the experience.
 - (2) He is a "flip-flopper".
 - (3) He doesn't tell the truth.
 2. What should we believe?
 - a) We should not believe what the media tells us.
 - b) We must listen to both sides and make our own decision.
 - B. The importance of this election.
 1. We are electing the leader of the nation that leads the world.
 2. The President will guide our nation and will profoundly affect the direction of the nations of the world.
 - a) The President will be an example to our nation and others regarding moral issues.
 - (1) We should be an example to the world on the issue of stem cell research.
 - (2) We should be an example to the world on the issue of abortion.
 - (3) We should be an example to the world on the issue of freedom of worship.
 - b) The next President will pick at least one and possibly as many as four Supreme Court Justices.
 - (1) The Court will make decisions which will guide our nation for years to come.
 - (2) Those decisions will affect our lives in ways we can not even imagine.
 - c) The next President will affect the future of our country by introducing laws to be passed by the Congress.
 - (1) Laws affecting taxes which will affect the prosperity of the country.
 - (2) Laws which will affect virtually every part of our lives.
 3. We MUST study the issues and make an informed decision about each issue and candidate.
 4. You must vote your conscience in the light of Scripture.
- II. Men will vote, but it is God who chooses.
 - B. It is God who elects men to office in the Old Testament.
 1. God elected Abraham to be a blessing to all nations
Gen 12:1-3: **Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."**
 2. God elected Saul to office as king of Israel.
 - a) 1 Sam 10:23-25: **So they ran and took him from there, and when he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward. And Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see him whom the LORD has chosen? Surely there is no one like him among all the people." So all the people shouted and said, "Long live the king!"**

- b) Even though it was the people who “took (Saul) from hiding in the baggage, it was the Lord who had chosen him.
- 3. God elected David to serve as king to replace Saul.
 - c) ! Samuel 16:6-13: Samuel is sent by God to anoint the king who will replace Saul.
 - (1) 1 Sam 16:6-7: **Then it came about when (the sons) entered, that (Samuel) looked at Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."**
 - (2) Each of the sons of Jesse passes and God tells Samuel, “This is not the one.”
 - (3) Finally David comes from the sheep **And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is he." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers;**

B. It is God who elects to office in the New Testament.

- 1. God chose Saul to become the Apostle Paul.

Acts 9:15-16: **But the Lord said to (Ananias), "Go, for (Saul) is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;**
- 2. God chose each of the Apostles to serve Him.
 - a) John 6:70-71: **Jesus answered (the disciples), "Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?" Now He meant Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.**
 - b) Jesus chose Judas, even though He knew Judas would betray Him.
 - c) Jesus chose Judas even though Judas was a wicked leader.
- 3. God chooses all who are in authority.
 - a) Rom 13:1-2: **Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore he who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.**
 - b) Men may cast the votes, but it is God who elects to office.
 - c) Proverbs 16:33: **The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.**

C. The most important election of all is election to eternal life.

- 1. 2 Thessalonians 2:13: **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.**
- 2. Ephesians 1:4-7: **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.**

III. It is God who elects to salvation.

A. Election is not fatalism.

- 1. It matters what people do.
- 2. ISBE: “...election, in Scripture, is as different as possible from the fatal necessity of, e.g. the Stoics. It never appears as mechanical, or as blind destiny. It has to do with the will of a God who has given us otherwise supreme proofs that He is all-good and all-kind.”
- 3. God works through means to accomplish His ends.
 - a) Your actions are important in this election.
 - b) Your actions are important in which of your family, friends, and neighbors God will save.

B. Election in Scripture is relational.

- 1. ISBE: “*In the New Testament, (the word) occurs 6 times (Rom 9:11; 11:5, 7, 28; 1 Thess 1:4; 2 Peter 1:10). In all these places it appears to denote an act of Divine selection taking effect upon*

human objects so as to bring them into special and saving relations with God: a selection...at once a mysterious thing...and (yet) such as to be knowable by its objects."

2. It is God who elects and yet man can know that a loving God is the One who has elected him.

C. Election in Scripture is moral.

1. ISBE: Election in Scripture "*...is intended...to deepen man's submission to – not force, but – mystery, where such submission means faith. ...its designed effect is to emphasize in the believer the consciousness...that the whole of his salvation is due to the Divine mercy, no part of it to his merit, to his virtue, to his wisdom.*

2. The election on Tuesday will be in part due to the merit, virtue, and wisdom of the candidates.

3. The election of Tuesday will be in whole due to a sovereign God who decided before time, who would win and by whose votes that person would win.

4. The election of Tuesday will be in accordance with the will of the God of all grace who decides in His sovereign will who will be elected to His family.