

God’s Amazing Grace – Part 7

Before the Foundation of the World

(a thematic review)

It all begins with God who has no beginning.

Psalm 90:2 Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

*Isaiah 46:10 I (God) make known the **end** from the **beginning**, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.*

God eternally exists One, yet Father, Son (and Holy Spirit – for another lesson).

John 17:5 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began....²⁴ "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

The purpose of all that exists FOR God and to bring God glory.

Isaiah 43:7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Romans 9:23 What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory—

Romans 11:36 For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

Colossians 1:16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

His self-glorifying plan and purpose involves certain objects or individuals being selected or chosen for salvation before creation on the basis of his free and sovereign grace alone.

Ephesians 1:4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will--

1 Peter 1:20 He [Christ] was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

John 17:24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

This election was compiled in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Revelation 13:8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast-- all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

The very name of the book and the "slain" show that before creation, God in Christ has already planned to redeem some from among mankind even before sin existed.

*John 13:1 It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved **his own** who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.*

*John 10:3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls **his own sheep** by name and leads them out.*

*John 6:37 All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And **this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.***

This list of "His own" was completely written in advance, nothing more to be added or deleted.

Revelation 17:8 The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come.

This election fully and finally determines every person's final destination.

Revelation 20:15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Matthew 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

All times, events and purposes are established by God and fixed (appointed) including every person's salvation or condemnation.

Matthew 8:29 "What do you want with us, Son of God?" they shouted. "Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?"

1 Corinthians 2:7 No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began...10 but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

Titus 1:1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness-- 2 a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time,

1 Peter 2:8 and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message-- which is also what they were destined for.

2 Timothy 1:9 who has saved us and called us to a holy life-- not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,

Contrary to Jewish expectation, His election unto eternal salvation was not specifically for or limited to any one nation.

*Romans 16:25 Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, 26 but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that **all nations** might believe and obey him-- 27 to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.*

Acts 15:17 that the remnant of men (all other peoples NRSV) may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things' 18 that have been known for ages.

In eternity, those in Christ will respond with eternal praises and glory to him.

Revelation 7:10 And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

Revelation 15:3 and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb: "Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages.

*Revelation 19:1 After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! **Salvation** and glory and power belong to our God,*

Jude 1:25 to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

The following is just a brief list of some prominent figures in church history past and present who have taught the sovereignty of God in all things including salvation by God's free sovereign grace. (i.e. the doctrines of grace, election, predestination, Calvinism, or whatever title you give it.)

Augustine

R. L. Dabney

Charles Hodge

Charles H. Spurgeon

B. B. Warfield

A. A. Hodge

John MacArthur

A. W. Pink

R. C. Sproul

John Piper	James M. Boice	James Petigrew Boice
J. I. Packer	Wayne Grudem	John Owen
D. A. Carson	David Pratt	Tim Keller
Matt Chandler	John Gill	Justin Taylor
Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones	Charles Wesley	Thomas Watson
John Newton	George Whitefield	John Calvin
Martin Luther	Ulrich Zwingli	John Knox
Robert Murray M'Cheyne	John A. Broadus	Horatius Bonar
J.C. Ryle	Os Guinness	Michael Horton
Jonathan Edwards	Albert Mohler	Sinclair B. Ferguson
John Bunyan	Tom J. Nettles	Cornelius Van Til
Isaac Backus	Abraham Kuyper	John Murray
John Gresham Machen	Augustus Toplady	Loraine Boettner
Matthew Henry	Thomas Boston	Henry Martyn
David Livingstone	John G. Paton	John Ryland
William Carey	Adoniram Judson	William Guthrie

We could add many more. Including, Jesus, John, Peter, James, Paul, etc...but this can be easily ascertained from God’s Word. Any list of prominent men who believed and taught these truths could be countered by a list of prominent men who opposed these truths. So...the list is not to “convince of truth” that should be done by the Word & Spirit of God. The list given because in our day there is so much biblical, historical and theological “illiteracy” or “ignorance” that you just might have someone say “No one would believe what you are saying” or “No one teaches those things”. We don’t follow men, but God. We must listen to God (through His Word) above all others. The following is also added to just show the history of these truths that have fallen away today because of such a modern overemphasis on “man” rather than putting God first and learning from Him about man.

Major Historic Documentation: (Election was the majority position historically)

The Augsburg Confession

The Savoy Declaration

The Belgic Confession (1618)

The Canons of Dort (1618)

The Westminster Confession of Faith (1646)

The London Baptist Confessions of Faith (1644, 1646, 1689)

The Philadelphia Confession (1742)

The New Hampshire Baptist Confession of Faith (1833)

The Baptist Faith and Message (1925, 1963...2000)

The Cambridge Declaration (1988)

Some early teaching documents (Catechisms).

1. Heidelberg Catechism ~ Presbyterian
2. The Westminster Shorter Catechism ~ Presbyterian
3. The Anabaptist's Catechism (1645) Baptist
4. Benjamin Keach's Catechism ~ Baptist
5. Spurgeon's Catechism of 1855 ~ Baptist

It is a sad fact that in our times, when someone teaches these basic tenets of the historic Christian faith, as taught and believed by almost every denomination before an influx of man-centeredness infiltrated the churches, people feel they are hearing something "new," "different" or even "dangerous." This was the part of the origin and doctrinal foundations of the apostolic church, the early Catholic church and later every protestant denomination. It is in the creeds and teachings many of the Presbyterians, Lutherans, Reformed, Congregational, Anglican, and Baptist churches. The various Pentecostal, Charismatic groups are all offshoots of these groups. These truths were the basis of the Apostolic church in the first century and these doctrines carried on in the catholic church through the sixth century, before man-centeredness took over. Today if someone teaches these foundational truths in some of these churches they are attacked, maligned and misunderstood. Often they are not even given the opportunity to demonstrate both the faithfulness of these teachings to the Scripture and to historic Christianity. But, alas we have fallen on hard times. Times where the sharper edges of the Sword of the Spirit are being dulled or even ignored so that man-made structures or organizations may grow. May God grant us the grace and strength to stand even as both the world and many even from among us, react strongly against the consistency, clarity and cutting nature (Heb. 4:12) of the Word of God.

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