

CSI: Controversial Subject Investigated:

Being Elect of God

The Setting:	Heaven and Earth
The Evidence:	2 John 1-3; 1 Peter 2:6; Matthew 24:22-24; 1 Timothy 5:21; Colossians 3:12-15
The Characters:	Jesus Christ, Angels, Saints
The Controversy:	What does it mean to be “elect” and to whom does it apply?

One of the most interesting and misunderstood subjects is that of being “elect” by God. Twenty-seven verses in the Word of God give insight as to what it means to be called into a relationship with God. Knowing that Jesus sent His disciples into the world to preach that the Gospel is the “**power of God unto salvation, to everyone that believeth**” (Romans 1:16), being elect doesn’t mean being in an exclusive group of only certain ones to whom salvation is available. When the Bible speaks of many being called but few chosen (Matthew 7:13, 14; 22:14), it references the fact that God calls all (see CSI: Called and Chosen) but not all choose Him.

At times an “elect” individual or nation is chosen for a particular purpose. A president, for example, can only be “elect” from a group to which he belongs. Consider the elect from the following references:

1. Jesus is Elect. 1 Peter 2:6

*Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, **elect**, precious: and **he that believeth on him** shall not be confounded.*

2. Angels are elect. 1 Timothy 5:21

*I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the **elect angels**, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.*

From Genesis to Revelation, angels are referenced. There are many. Jesus could have called legions of angels to rescue Him from the cross. Of all the angels of God, we only know two by name, Gabriel and Michael, who were elect angels sent by God for specific purposes. (see Daniel 8:16; 9:21; Luke 1:19, 26)
We also know that angels are sent for the purpose of ministering to the saints (Hebrews 1:14).

3. Saints are elect. Matthew 24:21-31; Mark 13:20,22, 27

*And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his **elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.***

Matthew 24 and Mark 13 both speak of the Great Tribulation. The 144,000 (Revelation 7) are put on Earth during this time so that the gospel will continue to go out. It will be such trouble that God says “for the elect’s sake” (the sealed and the saved), He will shorten the time.

Christians are elect due to their acceptance of Jesus, who shed his blood for remission of sins to “bring many sons unto glory” (Hebrews 2:10). In 2 Timothy 2:17 Paul told Timothy that he endured all things “for the elect’s sake, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”

Election is that precious doctrine whereby God chooses us and then we choose Him. *Our* choice is a matter of life and death. In the year 1829, a Federal Grand Jury in Pennsylvania sentenced a man named George Wilson to die for mail robbery and murder. President Andrew Jackson gave him an unconditional pardon, but he refused it. The case went to the Supreme Court where it was determined that the pardon was only valid if accepted by the one implicated in the crime. George Wilson was hanged because he refused the pardon, not because the salvation was not available. So it is with God. He offers us a pardon—effective only if we, the guilty party, accept it.