

Predestination

Part 3 of 4

Andy Naselli | 6/26/2022 | Bethlehem Baptist Church in Mounds View, MN

Question	Answer
1. What is the goal of election?	The goal of election is for God to save us so that we praise him for his glorious grace.
2. When did God choose to save humans?	God chose to save humans before he created the world.
3. Did God choose to save <i>individuals</i> ?	Yes, God chose to save individuals.

Question	Answer
4. Did God choose to save individuals on the basis of his foreseeing that they would freely choose to believe in him? (Romans 9:6–13)	No, the basis of election is God’s forelove.
5. Is unconditional election unfair? (Romans 9:14–18)	No, unconditional election is merciful and gracious.
6. Does unconditional election entail that we do not have a free will? (Romans 9:19–23)	It depends what you mean by “free.” We do not have a free will in the sense that we can equally make alternative choices; we have a free will in the sense that we always choose what we most want.

Question	Answer
7. Is God’s sovereign choice to save only some humans compatible with God’s desire that all humans be saved?	_____
8. How does God accomplish and apply his sovereign plan to save individuals?	_____
9. How do we know if God has elected an individual?	_____
10. Did God elect babies who die and the severely mentally disabled?	_____

Question 7. Is God's sovereign choice to save only some humans compatible with God's desire that all humans be saved?

1. We must distinguish two aspects of God's will.

2. _____

3. _____

What God Would Like to See Happen	What God Actually Wills to Happen
“Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Let my people go’” (Exod. 5:1).	“I will harden his heart” (Exod. 4:21; cf. 7:3). “The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh” (9:12).
“I have no pleasure [<i>haphez</i>] in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live” (Ezek. 33:11).	“They would not listen to the voice of their father, for it was the will [<i>haphez</i>] of the LORD to put them to death” (1 Sam. 2:22–25).
“You crucified and killed [Jesus] by the hands of lawless men” (Acts 2:23b; also 4:27).	“Jesus [was] delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God” (Acts 2:23a; also 4:28).

What God Would Like to See Happen

God genuinely desires all people to be saved.

“It is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish” (Matt. 18:14).

What God Actually Wills to Happen

God’s sovereignly chose to save only some people.

“I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will” (Matt. 11:25–26; Luke 10:21).

What God Would Like to See Happen	What God Actually Wills to Happen
Commanded will	Decreed will
Moral will	Sovereign will
Revealed will	Secret or hidden will
Looking at a painful or wicked event through a narrow lens	Looking at a painful or wicked event through a wide-angle lens

Question 7. Is God's sovereign choice to save only some humans compatible with God's desire that all humans be saved?

1. We must distinguish two aspects of God's will.
2. God values something else more highly than saving all humans without exception.
3. _____

According to Arminianism	According to Calvinism
God more highly values a genuinely loving relationship, which requires us to have a free will in the sense that we can equally make alternative choices.	God more highly values displaying his glory in mercy and wrath (Rom. 9:22–23) and receiving all the glory for sovereignly saving individuals.

Question 7. Is God's sovereign choice to save only some humans compatible with God's desire that all humans be saved?

1. We must distinguish two aspects of God's will.
2. God values something else more highly than saving all humans without exception.
3. How can God's desire to save people be genuine if he has decreed not to save them? An Example

Question	Answer
7. Is God’s sovereign choice to save only some humans compatible with God’s desire that all humans be saved?	Yes, if we properly distinguish between what God would like to see happen and what God actually wills to happen.
8. How does God accomplish and apply his sovereign plan to save individuals?	_____
9. How do we know if God has elected an individual?	_____
10. Did God elect babies who die and the severely mentally disabled?	_____

**How does God accomplish and apply his
sovereign plan to save individuals?**

1. God accomplishes his sovereign plan to save individuals through *Christ's saving work*.
2. God initially applies his sovereign plan to save individuals through *the Holy Spirit's regenerating work*.
3. God ordained that individuals would repent and believe through *hearing God's word* and through *prayer*.

1 Corinthians 1:21

It pleased God *through the folly of what we preach* to save those who believe.

Acts 13:48

When the Gentiles *heard* this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

2 Thessalonians 2:13–14; 3:1

We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because *God chose you* as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and *belief in the truth. To this he called you through our gospel*, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ... Finally, brothers, *pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you.*

Colossians 4:2–3

Devote yourselves to prayer ...

praying at the same time for us as well,

that God will open up to us a door for the word,

so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ

**Application: Proclaim God's word to unbelievers,
support others who do that,
and ask God to save unbelievers.**

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

**Application: Proclaim God's word to unbelievers,
support others who do that,
and ask God to save unbelievers.**

1. Obey God—even if you don't have answers to all your philosophical questions.

2. _____

3. _____

Application: Proclaim God's word to unbelievers, support others who do that, and ask God to save unbelievers.

1. Obey God—even if you don't have answers to all your philosophical questions.
2. God's sovereignty should encourage you to evangelize and to support missionaries.
3. _____

**Application: Proclaim God's word to unbelievers,
support others who do that,
and ask God to save unbelievers.**

1. Obey God—even if you don't have answers to all your philosophical questions.
2. God's sovereignty should encourage you to evangelize and to support missionaries.
3. God's sovereignty should encourage you to pray for unbelievers.

Question	Answer
7. Is God's sovereign choice to save only some humans compatible with God's desire that all humans be saved?	Yes, if we properly distinguish between what God would like to see happen and what God actually wills to happen.
8. How does God accomplish and apply his sovereign plan to save individuals?	Through Christ, through the Holy Spirit, through hearing God's word, and through prayer.
9. How do we know if God has elected an individual?	_____
10. Did God elect babies who die and the severely mentally disabled?	_____

How do we know if God has elected an individual?

1. Calling and justification are evidence of election (Rom. 8:28–29).

2. _____

3. _____

Application: _____

Romans 8:29–30

1. God predestined (or elected) those whom he foreknew.
2. God called those whom he predestined.
3. God justified those whom he called.
4. God glorified those whom he justified.

How do we know if God has elected an individual?

1. Calling and justification are evidence of election (Rom. 8:28–29).
2. Following Jesus the Shepherd is evidence of election (John 10:27).
3. _____

Application: _____

How do we know if God has elected an individual?

1. Calling and justification are evidence of election (Rom. 8:28–29).
2. Following Jesus the Shepherd is evidence of election (John 10:27).
3. A transformed life is evidence of election (1 Thess. 1:2–10).

Application: _____

How do we know if God has elected an individual?

1. Calling and justification are evidence of election (Rom. 8:28–29).
2. Following Jesus the Shepherd is evidence of election (John 10:27).
3. A transformed life is evidence of election (1 Thess. 1:2–10).

Application: Confirm your election (2 Pet. 1:5–11).

Question	Answer
7. Is God's sovereign choice to save only some humans compatible with God's desire that all humans be saved?	Yes, if we properly distinguish between what God would like to see happen and what God actually wills to happen.
8. How does God accomplish and apply his sovereign plan to save individuals?	Through Christ, through the Holy Spirit, through hearing God's word, and through prayer.
9. How do we know if God has elected an individual?	Evidence of election includes one's calling, justification, and transformed life.
10. Did God elect babies who die and the severely mentally disabled?	_____

1. Babies who die are sinners by nature—not sinners by choice.

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

1. Babies who die are sinners by nature—not sinners by choice.

2. God condemns people who consciously rebel against him.

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

1. Babies who die are sinners by nature—not sinners by choice.
2. God condemns people who consciously rebel against him.
3. God judges some people more severely than others.
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

1. Babies who die are sinners by nature—not sinners by choice.
2. God condemns people who consciously rebel against him.
3. God judges some people more severely than others.
4. No human is saved apart from Christ.
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

1. Babies who die are sinners by nature—not sinners by choice.
2. God condemns people who consciously rebel against him.
3. God judges some people more severely than others.
4. No human is saved apart from Christ.
5. King David implies that God mercifully saves babies who die.
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

1. Babies who die are sinners by nature—not sinners by choice.
2. God condemns people who consciously rebel against him.
3. God judges some people more severely than others.
4. No human is saved apart from Christ.
5. King David implies that God mercifully saves babies who die.
6. Conclusion: The Bible implies that God mercifully saves babies who die and the severely mentally disabled.
7. _____
8. _____

1. Babies who die are sinners by nature—not sinners by choice.
2. God condemns people who consciously rebel against him.
3. God judges some people more severely than others.
4. No human is saved apart from Christ.
5. King David implies that God mercifully saves babies who die.
6. Conclusion: The Bible implies that God mercifully saves babies who die and the severely mentally disabled.
7. Application: Trust God, who is always just and good.
8. _____

1. Babies who die are sinners by nature—not sinners by choice.
2. God condemns people who consciously rebel against him.
3. God judges some people more severely than others.
4. No human is saved apart from Christ.
5. King David implies that God mercifully saves babies who die.
6. Conclusion: The Bible implies that God mercifully saves babies who die and the severely mentally disabled.
7. Application: Trust God, who is always just and good.
8. Speculation: God's sufficient word is intentionally not explicitly clear on the destiny of babies who die.

Question	Answer
7. Is God's sovereign choice to save only some humans compatible with God's desire that all humans be saved?	Yes, if we properly distinguish between what God would like to see happen and what God actually wills to happen.
8. How does God accomplish and apply his sovereign plan to save individuals?	Through Christ, through the Holy Spirit, through hearing God's word, and through prayer.
9. How do we know if God has elected an individual?	Evidence of election includes one's calling, justification, and transformed life.
10. Did God elect babies who die and the severely mentally disabled?	Almost certainly. The Bible does not explicitly say, but it implies that God mercifully saves babies who die and the severely mentally disabled.