GOD'S CHOSEN...

"Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!"

Romans 11:33



(Message 1 of 12)

CHRISTatTheHelm.org

Ever since creation, God has chosen men to carry out His missions for the sole purpose of achieving His will. Nothing has happened on this earth that God did not allow, nor can there ever be anyone coming against His Sovereignty, as His creation is by design.

While mankind has continuously disobeyed, every atom of God's plan will be carried out in His time. That's why God's choice of people to carry out His will have never been based on their abilities or qualities, but rather on God's Sovereign will to so call on them.

Paul in Hebrews 4:13 said, "And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." Through Isaiah 46:9-10, God said, "For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure."

In the days ahead, we'll look into men that God chose to carry out His plan. Just as an introduction, none of them were perfect, charismatic, eloquent or even always obedient. God's choice is based on His Sovereignty, and beyond our understanding. Haven't we all been chosen?

GOD'S CHOSEN - MOSES

"But Moses said to God, "I am nobody.

How can I go to the king and bring
the Israelites out of Egypt? God answered,

"I will be with you, and when you bring
the people out of Egypt, you will worship me
on this mountain. That will be the proof
that I have sent you."

(Message 2 of 12)

Ex 3:11-12

CHRISTatTheHelm.org

Isn't it interesting that Moses, while taking care of the king's goats, was called by God to lead His people out of Egypt? This is a man who had a stutter problem, was certainly not eloquent or charismatic, but God chose him to be a leader with great authority. Exodus 33:11 says, "So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend." What did God find in this man? God certainly didn't use the world's evaluation system, but rather in His Wisdom and Sovereignty, chose Moses to carry out this important task.

Moses did lead God's people for 40 years, obviously not without problems and failures, but nonetheless God knew in advance he was the man He wanted for the mission. Perhaps a character trait that Moses possessed is found in Numbers 12:3, "Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth." Obviously, God never chooses the proud to serve Him, right?

Yet, did Moses follow God's plan to the letter? Numbers 20:7-12 shows us the complete opposite when rather than speaking to the rock for water, Moses hit it in frustration, resulting in God choosing Joshua to finally lead His people into the Promised Land. How ready and available are we for God's call right now?

GOD'S CHOSEN - NOAH

"By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith." Heb 11:7

(Message 3 of 12)

CHRISTatTheHelm.org

How interesting to see that God chooses men not based on talents, but rather from their heart's disposition! Noah believed God that it was going to rain and completely flood the earth, yet, it had never rained before as water came from the dew each morning.

Can we also imagine Noah being given plans by God to build a boat that would measure over 500 feet long, a project so grandiose that even today would seem impossible for most people? How much faith does it take to believe that a man with only his three sons could actually build something that had never been done before, with no tools or readily available materials?

Gen 6:7-8 tell us, "So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD." And Gen 6:9 adds, "Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God." In other words, Noah's character trait that pleased God was his faith and righteousness.

Imagine Noah's strong faith in God, to even be ridiculed by the world around him, and yet continue for 120 years to see such a project to completion? Would we?

GOD'S CHOSEN - ABRAHAM

"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going."

Hebrews 11:8



(Message 4 of 12)

CHRISTatTheHelm.org

We all know the story of Abraham, old, without children because Sara was barren, and one day God visits him and tells him his wife will give him a son from whom all the descendants will multiply as the stars of the sky and the sand of the seashore.

Imagine a couple in their nineties without ability to have children, being told they will have a son. They would probably laugh so hard as to cause a heart attack! The important characteristic from Abraham is, as James 2:23 says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. And he was called the friend of God."

Then God gave him a second test, to offer his son as a sacrifice to God, as Hebrews 11:17 & 19 describes, "By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac"; "Concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead." In essence, God tested Abraham to an extreme that shows us that Abraham's faith in God should be an inspiration for us all. However, while Abraham was a humble man, he wasn't perfect nor showed courage but rather fear when facing Abimelech, as written in Gen 20:2.

Interestingly, each person God chooses to serve Him must have the most important characteristic God desires... FAITH, right?

GOD'S CHOSEN - DAVID

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Psalm 27:1



(Message 5 of 12)

CHRISTatTheHelm.org

David, a courageous man always trusted God, even in most difficult situations. When David heard Goliath curse and challenge the God of Israel, he accepted the fight that Goliath threw at the Jews, even if the tallest and stronger cowered at the challenge. When offered Saul's armor to fight Goliath, David refused, choosing rather to use a sling against this big powerful armor protected rival.

This scripture helps us to better understand David's state of heart: "David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel." 1 Samuel 17:45-46.

David had complete faith in God, a strong faith in action. That's why Paul quoted Samuel in Acts 13:22, "I have found David the *son* of Jesse, a man after My *own* heart, who will do all My will."

How courageous and dedicated are we right now to carry out God's will for us?

GOD'S CHOSEN - JOSEPH

"But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."



(Message 6 of 12)

CHRISTatTheHelm.org

Joseph, the son youngest of Jacob, had visions from God at an early age, and shared them with his brothers who thought he was proud and crazy. Joseph was also much loved by his father, the reason his jealous brothers decided to get rid of him.

They did, even thinking Joseph was dead, but what they meant for evil, God turned into a glorious miracle for the Jewish people. There was a famine in their land, so Jacob and his sons sought help from the Pharaoh in Egypt. Guess who was the right hand man of Pharaoh? Joseph, right? Now, in the natural, such an event would probably cause a person to get even with his brothers. Rather, Joseph chose to forgive them and made them realize it was all within God's plan.

Throughout Joseph's trials, temptations and challenges, Joseph remained faithful to God. Gen 39:21 tells us that "The LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison." Pharaoh even said to Joseph, "Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, *there is* no one as discerning and wise as you." Gen 41:39.

Perhaps the lesson to learn here is that no matter the challenges and trials of life, like Joseph, we should trust God and remain faithful!

GOD'S CHOSEN - JOSHUA

"And the LORD said to Moses:

"Take Joshua the son of Nun with you,
a man in whom is the Spirit,
and lay your hand on him."

Numbers 27:18

(Message 7 of 12)

CHRISTatTheHelm.org

Joshua was the right hand man of Moses, the one who always carried out Moses directives with a very special characteristic, "A man in whom *is* the Spirit", as the featured scripture says. In essence, Joshua wasn't a man that walked in his own strength, nor in seeking his own profit, but with a meek heart, seeking to serve God and walking the path that God directed him on.

God directed Joshua that he would be the one who would take His people to the promised land, and enjoined him this way: "No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you." Then, "Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you." "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it." Finally, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:5-9.

Why did God choose Joshua? Obviously, he was a man who walked in the Spirit of God, humble and trusted God wholeheartedly. Do we?

GOD'S CHOSEN - ISAIAH

"But those who wait on the LORD
Shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint."
Isaiah 40:31

(Message 8 of 12)

CHRISTatTheHelm.org

The prophet Isaiah is a clear example of how God chooses His servants, and certainly not because we deserve it, on the contrary. We get the event when God chose Isaiah to serve Him in Isaiah 40, chapter 6. In it God actually appeared sitting on a throne, and angels covered God's face and feet.

He then heard an angel say, "Holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" Then Isaiah realized he was a sinner cried out, "Woe to me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of armies. Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. He touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your guilt is taken away and atonement is made for your sin." "Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

This is a beautiful image of salvation, where a true repentant sinner immediately surrenders his life and decides to serve God. Actually, every single saved believer in Christ is called to serve Him. What is God's call on our life right now?

GOD'S CHOSEN JOHN THE BAPTIST

"Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Mat 11:11

(Message 9 of 12)

CHRISTatTheHelm.org

It is interesting that Jesus referred to John the Baptist as the greatest men ever born, yet the least compared to those in the Kingdom of heaven. Another important aspect about John the Baptist is that he was born through a miracle from God as his mother was barren.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to tell his father that his wife would bear a son, telling him, "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." (Luke 1:15-17)

While he lived in the desert feeding only on locusts and honey, in due time "John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins." Mark 1:4.

What do you think made John the Baptist so special to God? Obviously his miracle birth, his obedience, and very importantly, his true humility when he said about Jesus, "He must increase, but I *must* decrease." John 3:30

GOD'S CHOSEN - JONAH

"Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,
"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me."

But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD."

Jonah 1:1-3

(Message 10 of 12)

CHRISTatTheHelm.org

Sometimes, God calls us to serve, and we might feel incapable or unsure. However, in the case of Jonah, his pride and hatred for the people of Nineveh caused him to flee, because he thought those people didn't deserve God's salvation.

Have we ever felt as such when asked to serve to the Lord's glory, because we believed that we deserve a more important mission to our liking or talents? When God calls us for service, His missions have for purpose to reach out to the lost, or help those in need, just as someone has done for us. Isn't God sovereign after all? As a result of his disobedience, Jonah ended up in a strong storm on the sea, was thrown out of the boat, and swallowed by a fish. "Then 3 days later, Jonah from the fish's belly said: 'I cried out to the LORD because of my affliction, and He answered me." (Jonah 2:2)

What's the lesson here? Let's not ever think we're too important or that the task doesn't agree with our opinions or personal evaluation of the missions God requests from us. Proverbs 11:2 says, "When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble *is* wisdom." When the Lord calls us on a mission as small as can be, will we say, "Here I am Lord, send me"?

GOD'S CHOSEN - PAUL

"To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ."

Eph 3:8



(Message 11 of 12)

CHRISTatTheHelm.org

Initially, the apostle Paul sure didn't choose to serve God but was rather a proud Pharisee constantly pursuing and seeking to destroy all Christians who dared profess the name of Christ as Savior and Lord.

Yet again, God's sovereignty and will became true and alive in Jesus stopping Paul on the road to Damascus in a most powerful and stunning way. That's why he said, "Paul, an apostle, sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father" (Gal 1:1) In other words, God had chosen Paul for a very special mission; to go to the Gentiles he hated with the message of salvation. And guess what? He did!

Additionally, his ministry as difficult as it was, never stopped Paul in the mission God gave him after the revelation of Christ. That's why he said, "But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God." (Acts 20:24)

Again, God doesn't choose His people based on our human evaluation, but rather in His infinite wisdom, chooses whomever He pleases. Hasn't He chosen all of us to be His witnesses for Christ? How active are we at this call?

GOD'S CHOSEN - PETER

"Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven."

Mat 16:17



(Message 12 of 12)

CHRISTatTheHelm.org

Peter is a most interesting character as the Word of God describes. He was a swift thinker, impatient, impulsive, yet not always for the best outcomes. This man was a born leader, loved God and Christ, the reason Jesus chose him. But his personality needed to be tamed by the Lord following numerous impulsive actions or remarks. When Jesus asked His disciples, "But who do you say that I am? Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." That's when Jesus told Peter that he received this revelation from the Father. Jesus added that He would build His Church on this "Rock", the revelation that Jesus is the Christ, the Rock of our faith. It surely wasn't Peter as complicated and unstable as he was. (Mat 16:15-18)

After His resurrection, Jesus also asked him, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He was asked three times, "Do you love Me? And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep." (John 21:17)

The best lesson to derive from God's choice in Peter is that no matter our abilities or talents, we must serve God from the heart and always trust God and rely on His power, not our own.