

The Voice of Truth # 512

God's Elective Grace

Open your Bibles at Revelation 13:7. Our subject today, is the power of God's sovereign elective grace. While hell is overflowing the earth with all of its lava of corruption, wickedness, and iniquity, under the reign of the man of sin, who is the son of perdition, and the wild beast from the abyss, God's sovereign elective grace stands sure, immovable, and unaltered as the rock of ages. Turn with me to the word of God, and let's read Revelation 13:7:

And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If any man have an ear, let him hear. He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword.

Here is the patience and faith of the saints. For three and a half years, the Antichrist rules with great power, covering from the sixth chapter to the 13th chapter of Revelation; that we've already studied. Then he is killed with a sword, according to Revelation 13:14, and raised from the dead with the scars of the sword showing, which places him not only in the position as a mighty ruler, but he sets himself up as God to be worshipped. When he comes forth from the dead, Satan gives him his power, his throne, and great authority according to Revelation 13:2. That means that all the power and authority that Jehovah God had given to Satan, Satan now confers upon the Antichrist, the man of sin, the son of perdition, the beast out of the abyss; Shall we say according to the will of God? Yes, God permits it. Now in addition to this power that the Antichrist receives from Satan, the Anti-God, there is given to him additional power from Jehovah God.

Revelation 13:5 says, **And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies.** In other words, God takes all restraint from his totally depraved nature and lets him give vent of his entire heart and life, pouring out his

hatred and malice against the Lord God of heaven. The Scriptures also says, **power was given unto him to continue forty and two months**. This sets forth the sovereignty of God in circumscribing his length of rule, the limit of time that he is to enjoy this power.

Then according to Revelation 13:7, get it now, listen, **and it was given unto him to make war with the saints and overcome them**. Here God turns him loose to wreak vengeance upon his own people, that Satan may stand before the universe completely condemned. Then the scripture says power was given him over all kindreds and tongues and nations. This is worldwide rulership. The scope of his power reaches to the end of the earth. I know this seems amazing, and it is, that Jehovah God would grant such power to the Antichrist, but He does. According to Psalm 62:11, **power belongeth unto God**. If power belongs to God, and it does, then God gives it as He wills.

Not only does the Antichrist exercise authority in rulership over the entire earth, but at the same time he reaches the culmination of the desire of Satan and man ever since his fall, and that is, to be worshipped. Now, my friend, if you ever listen to me, you listen now, will you? I've grappled with the truth here, over a period of years. That truth is, why does God permit Satan? And why does God permit sin? And why didn't God kill Satan when he sinned? All right, you listen.

All that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, with one exception; those whose names are written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. In other words, when the Antichrist becomes the world dictator, all people, except God's elect, will not only crown him as the supreme ruler, but they will deify him as God. The scripture says, what should it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Here we see that God lets one man, the Antichrist, gain the whole world as ruler and as God, but he will come to the awful end of losing it all. But God's elect will come through.

The average individual today, get it now, you follow me, the average individual today never sees or comes to apprehend the great truth of the eternal purpose and counsel of God. God has the sovereign right to rule his universe because it belongs to him by virtue of his creation. All his counsels and decrees that govern this universe are founded upon equity and justice. One day in heaven, Satan

challenged the right of God to reign, and the first thing he did was to lead one third of the angels in rebellion with him. Then the second step of his manifested rebellion was to effect the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, thereby challenging God's character and position.

During these thousands of years, it's been Satan's one aim to overthrow the decrees of God, to cause God to break his word, that he might justly take over the governorship of the universe. The battle has been long and fierce between the Spirit of God and the Spirit of the Antichrist. Satan is the God of this world, and as God of this world, he has organized and ordered the world's systems and is operating them behind the scenes through unbelieving mankind based upon his principles of force, greed, selfishness, ambition, pleasure, and self-will. This world system is imposing and powerful, with armies and fleets and is often outwardly religious, scientific, cultured, and eloquent. Mankind, seething with national and commercial rivalries and ambitions, is upheld in every crisis only by armed forces and is dominated by satanic principles. For God to be God on the throne, he must govern all of his creatures with righteousness, equity, and justice. Therefore, he must execute justice and put down all wickedness and reign righteously. In bringing his archenemy Satan to justice, the author of all evil, the Lord God not only has been long-suffering, but he will deal with him to the very end in righteousness.

We must remember that since Satan's fall, the exercises of his wicked nature has been limited and circumscribed, and he's been under God's restraining hand for these centuries. For just judgment to be administered, Satan, with unbelieving humanity, must be released from all restraint to exercise their full capacity for evil and wickedness. And God does this only after the human race, through whom Satan is operating, has been reprobated and given up to fulfill its fullness of wickedness so that both can be judged together in righteousness. So, the great judge, the Lord God, removes all restraint from Satan and unbelieving humanity that there might be a public display of the evidence of what Satan and his followers are. Therefore, God gives him power to speak great things, and he turns unbelieving, reprobate humanity loose to worship Satan publicly, worldwide.

Satan through the Antichrist and the false prophet makes an open manifestation of all that he is and reenacts his crime he committed in heaven. He now perfects and accomplishes, on earth, his purpose. What is it? I will be like the Most High. Is that clear?

Before any sinner can be brought to judgment, get it now, before any sinner can be brought to the final judgment, Satan must stand completely exposed, and every sinner with him, as their defeated God. Therefore, Satan must be permitted to gather together under one authority all the rebels who have rejected the truth of God's Word and would not have this man, Christ Jesus, to reign over them. These God have given over to a reprobate mind, and they're led in open treason against the throne of God and him who sitteth thereon, for one purpose, that they might be apprehended, arrested, and confined together in the prison house of the damned, that the Bible calls the lake of fire. Thus, complete justice is done, wickedness is fulfilled and disposed of, and praise the Lord Christ, the rightful ruler becomes in fact the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Now in the midst of all this open manifestation of Satan's rule over reprobated humanity, there stands one class of people who will now not bow to Satan's authority, and that is the elect of God, whose names are written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Yes, when all kindreds, tongues, and nations bow and worship the Antichrist, and when idolatry reaches its peak under the reign of the Antichrist, which has never been known in the history of the world before, God's sovereign elective grace stands sure, and the elect will come through.

When God created the angels, two-thirds of them were the elect angels standing in Christ as their head. One-third stood on free will. Then when the time of choice came, those elect angels standing in Christ did not fall. Those who were placed on free will sinned with Satan. In like manner, when God created Adam and Eve, he placed them in the Garden of Eden on their free will; And then when the time of choice came, they chose evil instead of good, Satan instead of God. But praise be unto God, before the foundation of the world, he elected a number in Christ, out of Adam's fallen race, to be redeemed. Through all ages of mankind, these elect have been called out by the Holy Spirit and brought to Christ their Redeemer. And

they stand in Christ and cannot fall. So here in this world's darkest hour, when hell is overflowing the earth, and Satan, the Antichrist, and the false prophet are being worshipped by all people's tongues and nations, God's elective grace shines out, and the foundation of God standeth sure having this seal, that God knows those who are His.

One of the world's leading evangelists approached an old sovereign grace preacher in England the other day, and ask him the question, Brother, can you tell me why my converts are not standing? I agree with his answer 100%. The reason is, his preaching is not based on God's sovereign elective grace, but on the free will of man, and the free will of man can never stand. I'll tell you, my friends, you can't refute that statement with God's Word.

As we're now rapidly approaching the world's darkest hour, I believe it's timely to give you a study on God's elective grace, because his sovereign elective grace will bring us through. In connection with the subject of God's elective grace, which the devil hates, and which all of his emissaries cry down, I want us to look at God's elective grace under the following five points:

- 1 - The basis of God's elective grace.
- 2 - God's elective grace.
- 3 - God's elective grace calling sinners.
- 4 - God's elective grace bringing a sinner to Christ.
- 5 - The truth of God's elective grace.

Now, I'll not get through with it today, but I'm going to start on it. Before we look at the basis of God's elective grace, let's notice the fact that God's elective grace is manifest from eternity. In other words, his eternal love wrought out an eternal salvation through his eternal blood covenant. In Jeremiah 31:3 we find these words, **The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love, therefore, with loving kindness have I drawn thee.** In Isaiah 45:17 we find these words: **But Israel shall be saved in the Lord with an everlasting salvation.** In Hebrews 13:20, we find these words, **Now the God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant.**

In these three passages, we are set for three eternal things; God's everlasting love, God's everlasting salvation, and God's eternal blood government. God's love for sinners is from everlasting to everlasting, which shows that in the mind of God every sinner whom God ever saves, he knew in eternity, he elected in eternity, he called in eternity, he justified in eternity, he glorified in eternity, according to Romans 8:28-34, read it. Therefore, that sinner has been an object of God's love from time immemorial.

Then not only has God loved that sinner from eternity, but He has saved him from eternity with an everlasting salvation. The salvation of every sinner dates back, in the mind of God, in the cycles of eternity. Also, we notice that God's eternal blood covenant, which was made with the Lord Jesus Christ, dates back in the councils of the Godhead, before time ever began. So, every sinner who's ever saved was an object of God's love, a recipient of God's salvation, and has been kept by God's covenant with Christ in the mind of God, before man was created. Now, my friends, that's the basis and foundation of my salvation. Now you can call me a hyper-Calvinist, you can call me anything you want to, but I want to tell you one thing friends, I am resting upon an eternal salvation in Christ Jesus, that no powers of Satan, Antichrist, sin, hell, or judgment can shake. I take my stand there this morning. God help us in this sad hour.

In this dark hour, free will has never, does not now, and never will stand. But God's elective grace, in Christ Jesus our Redeemer, stands forever, and salvation is of the Lord.

First, God's elective grace rests upon the sovereignty of God. This is a truth very little known today to the average Christian church member, the sovereignty of God. Man will accept God anywhere except on the throne. Ephesians 1:11 sets forth this great truth, **in whom also we have obtained an inheritance being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.** We see set forth here the fact that every sinner, that ever gets saved, is predestined according to the purpose of God, who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will. God did not and does not, consult any individual about what he does. God's purposes and plans are executed irrespective of the will of man. On the basis of God's sovereignty, he does as he

pleases, what he pleases, how he pleases, and according to his own will, in the army of heaven and among the heavens of earth, according to Daniel 4:35 and Psalms 135:5 and 6. Listen, for **I know that the Lord is great and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatsoever the Lord pleaseth, that did he in the heaven and in the earth, in the seas and all the deep places.** My God's on the throne.

Now, what do we mean by the sovereignty of God? The sovereignty of God means the supremacy of God. God is supreme and sits on the throne as monarch, and man will recognize him as supreme or go to hell. Every sinner who ever gets saved comes to know, to feel and acknowledge that God is sovereign and that he can either save him or damn him as he pleases. Christ never stands, listen, get this, hold it, Christ never stands before a sinner to be accepted or rejected by that sinner; but the sinner lies in the dust of repentance, with all on the altar at the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is sovereign, as one waiting to be accepted or rejected by the sovereign God. A Catholic doctor said one day, I hear these Protestant preachers saying, accept Jesus and be saved. But he said, the thing I want to know is, has the Lord Jesus Christ accepted me? Now, he's right. I want to know if he's accepted me, and I never rested till I knew he had accepted me, brother.

The sovereignty of God means the kingship of God. That is, God is God, and beside Him there's none other. As he said in Isaiah 45:21, **there is no God else beside me, a just God and a Savior. There is none beside me, for I am God, and there is none beside me.** He also said in Isaiah 44: 8, **Is there a God beside me? Yea, there is no God. I know not any.** Exodus 23:23 said, **Thou shalt have no other gods before me.** Deuteronomy 6:4, **the Lord Jehovah our God is one Lord.** The sovereign of God means he's the most high God, the supreme ruler of the universe, the creator who upholdeth all things by the word of his power, and all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing, and he doth according to his will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth, and none can stay his hand or say unto him, What dost thou?

The sovereignty of God means he is almighty. We find in Psalms 115:3 these words: **But our God is in the heavens. He hath done whatsoever He hath pleased.** The sovereignty of God means that God is governor among the nations

of the earth. For the kingdom is the Lord's, and He is the governor among the nations. The sovereignty of God means that God is the only potentate, according to 1 Timothy 6:15, **which in his times he shall show, who is the blessed and only potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords.**

We may define the sovereignty of God then as the exercise of God's supremacy and being infinitely elevated above the highest creature; He's the Most High God, Lord of Heaven and Earth. The sovereignty of God means that he is subject to none, influenced by none, absolutely independent, and does as he pleases, only as he pleases, always as he pleases. None can thwart him, none can hinder him. he says, **My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.**

So divine sovereignty means that God is God, in fact, as well as God in name, and that he is on the throne of the universe. Amen, and amen, and amen. God's on the throne of the universe, and there's not a ruler of a nation in this earth that can go beyond his will. Praise God.

The second basis of God's elective grace is the total depravity of man. Man in his natural state is totally depraved. The glory of God has departed from him. According to God's Word, man in his natural state is first - dead in trespasses and sins; **You hath he quickened, made alive, who are dead in trespasses and sins.** A dead person cannot believe until he's made alive. Every man out of Christ is dead; he is alive to the world, but he's dead spiritually.

Secondly, it means he's blind. Man is not only spiritually dead, but in his natural state he is spiritually blind; **If our gospel be hid, it's hid to them that are lost, in whom the God of this world hath blinded the minds of them that believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.** Man is so depraved that he is dead spiritually, and he's so blind that he cannot see. **But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him, neither can he know them, because they're spiritually discerned.**

Third, he's totally corrupt, according to Isaiah 1:5, 6. **The whole head is sick, the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot, even unto the head, there's no soundness in it but wounds and bruises and putrefying sores. They have not**

been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment. How can a blind, dead corrupt sinner believe? The answer is in the negative, he cannot. Apart from the grace of God and the new birth, he cannot.

Then he's void of righteousness. He's enmity against God. He's lost. He's condemned to die. He cannot be delivered except by the power of God. He loves sin, and let me say in closing, God's sovereignty invests the Godhead with all authority and every means according to his riches in glory, that he in all his wisdom and kindness might choose to exercise toward any sinner for his salvation.

Is God calling you?