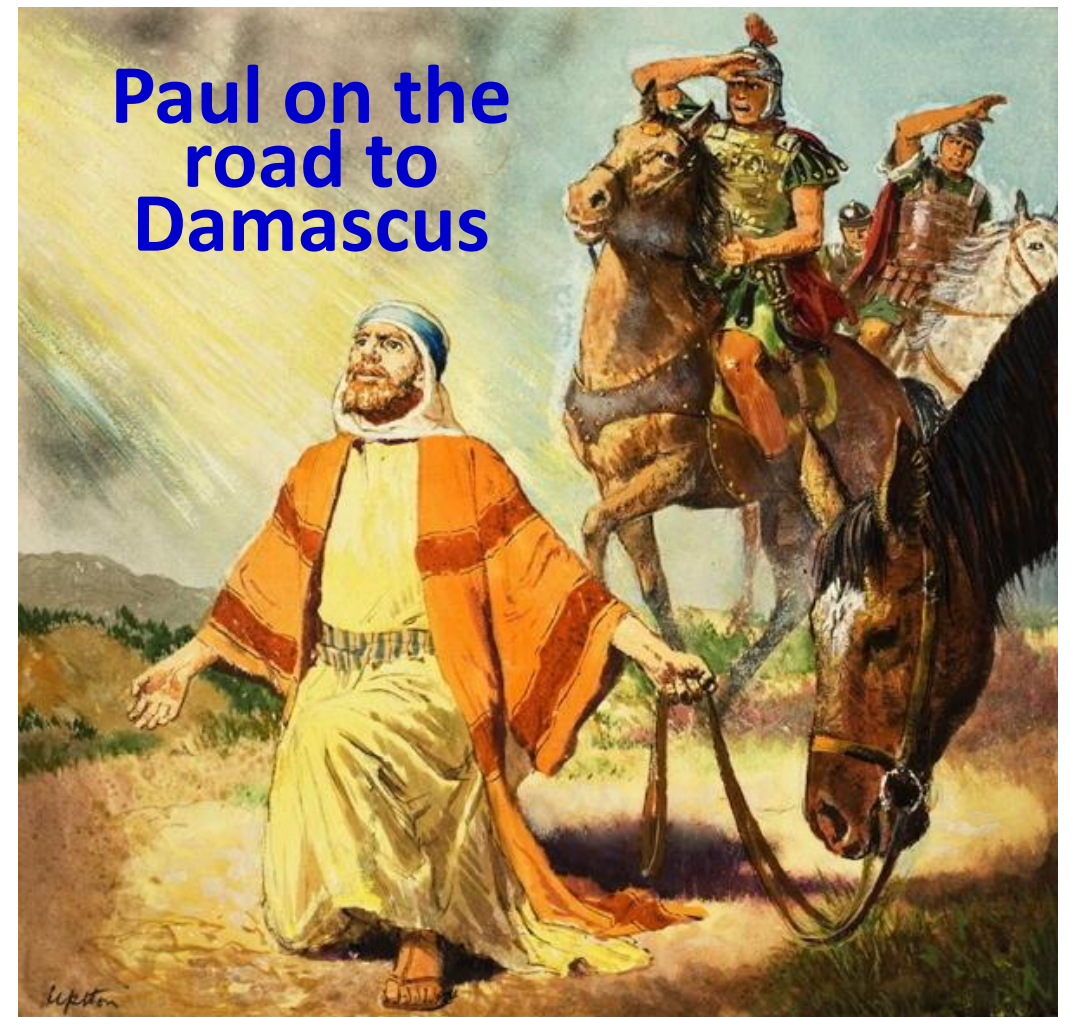


God's Election of His Family



Abraham & Isaac Hagar & Ishmael

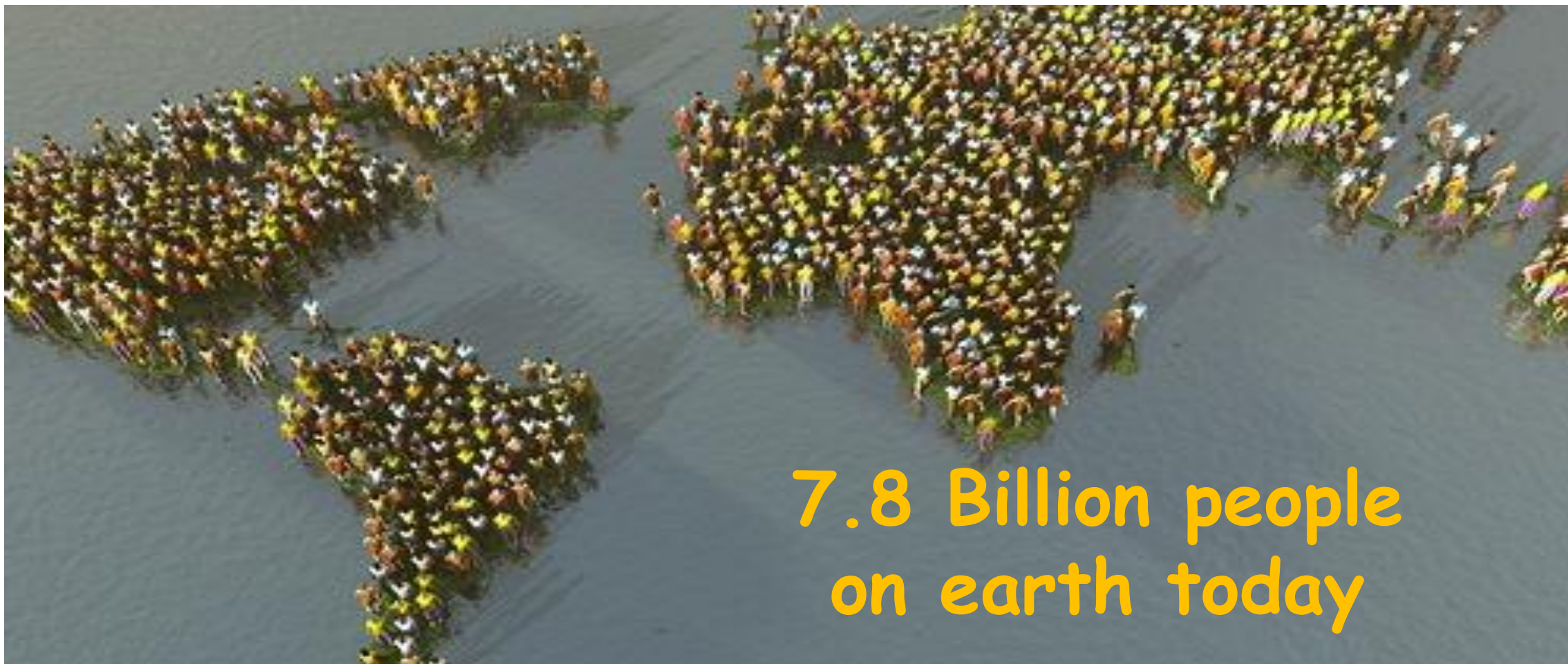


It's His Family
and His choice



- This class is NOT about who is accepted at the judgment seat of Christ
- It is about who has the opportunity to join God's family and are responsible to the judgment seat

God has lots of choices today!

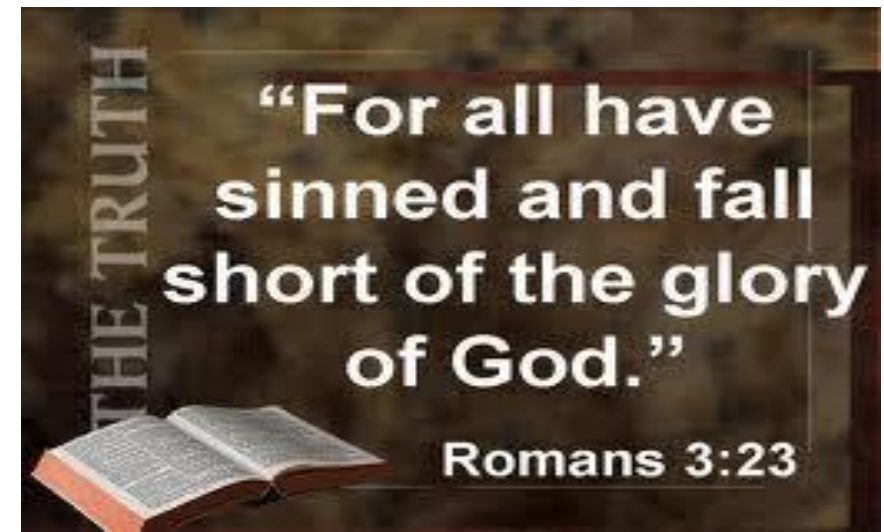


7.8 Billion people
on earth today

Does everyone get the same
opportunity to join God's family?

God's Election is totally His Right

- **Basis: Everyone has sinned** and fallen short of God's glory (Rom 3)
- **No one deserves to be saved** – it's God's gift (Rom 5)
 - a promise he made to Abraham (Rom 4)
- **Without God's intervention** no one would make it
- **Very difficult to save any** – angels are extremely involved every moment to guide and save



God can pick and choose who He wants to invite to His family

God has not intended
for everyone to have
the same opportunities



Ultimate Bible
Picture Collection



It's God's family
and so He
chooses who he
wants to invite

Most of the people on earth today have
never heard nor understood the Gospel



That doesn't
mean they are
not "good soil"

7.8 Billion people on earth today
Most have been left out for now!
Many will be called when Jesus comes

Many will respond in God's Kingdom

Jesus spoke in Parables - tough!

Matthew 13:10-15

10 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"

11 He answered and said to them, "Because **it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven**, but to them it has not been given. 12 For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. 13 **Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.** 14 And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says:

'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive; 15 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.'

Parables were not clear & hard to understand.

Jesus did not intend for these Jews to understand!

God's choices in the Past

- From Adam, tried working with everyone.
- Then chose Noah & some of his descendants
- Chose Abraham & some of his descendants
- Chose Isaac & some of his descendants
- Chose Israel in Egypt & some of their descendants
- Chose Paul to carry the gospel to Gentiles
 - Paul understood God's election because of his past
- Chose Gentiles throughout the world & some of their descendants & friends



God has chosen you too!

God's Election

In Romans 9-11 Paul gives us the best exposition of God's election found anywhere in the Bible

It's God's choice, so no flesh will glory in God's presence!

Paul had to explain how God could have worked mainly with Jews for so many years, and then switched to calling mainly Gentiles



Paul's OT examples

Why did God allow Abraham to have two sons by two different women (Hagar & Sarah), and then make sure Isaac had twins by Rebekah?

Without Paul's NT commentary we may never have known!

Paul had great sorrow for Israelites

Romans 9:1-5

I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, 2 **that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart.** 3 **For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh,** 4 **who are Israelites,** to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; 5 of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God [*“God blessed forever” (NASB)*]. Amen.

Israel had the covenant, promises, Law

Not all of Abraham's offspring are children of Abraham by Faith

Romans 9:6-8

6 But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect [God's plan has not failed!]. **For they are not all Israel who are of Israel,**

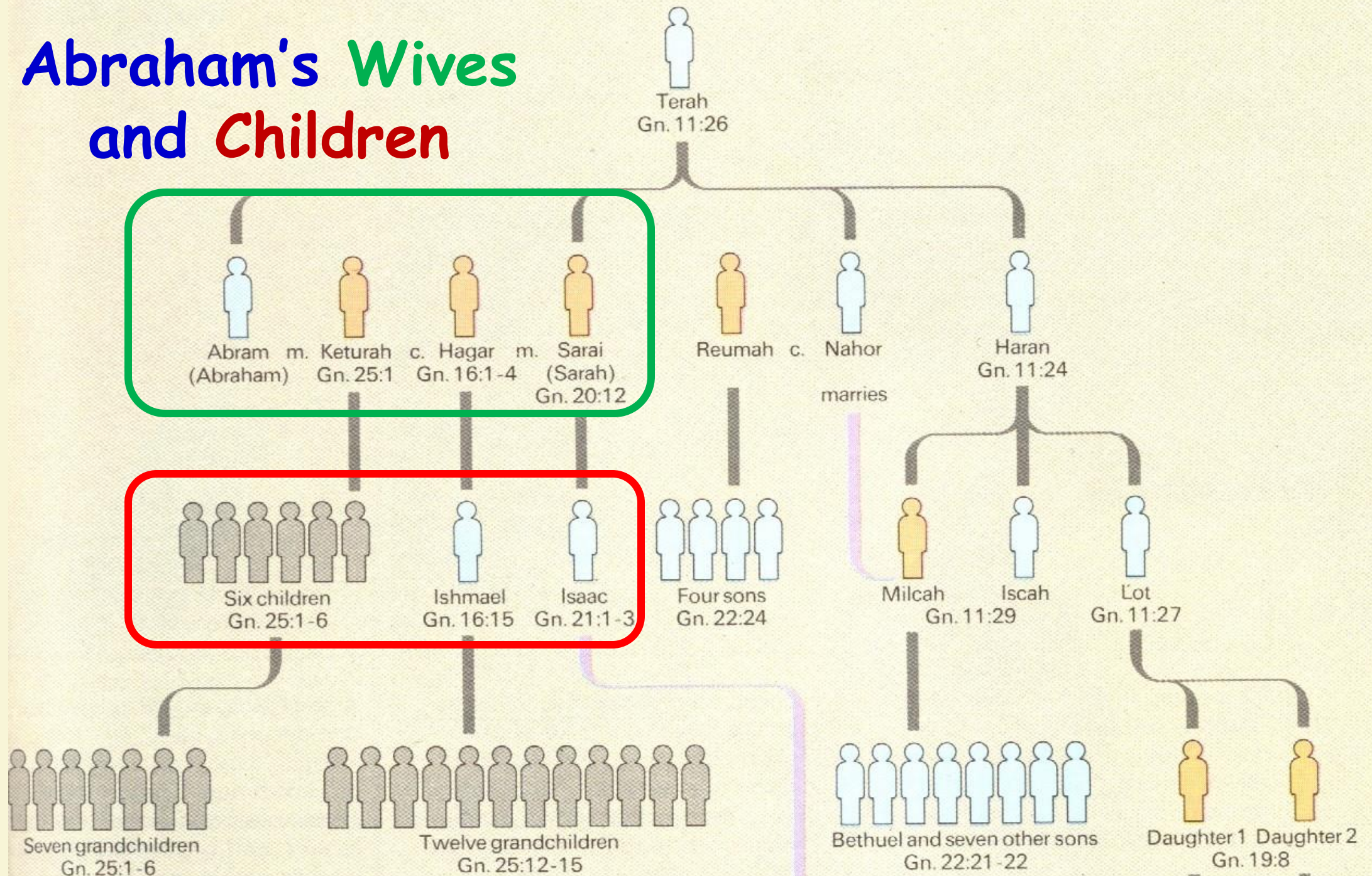
7 nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "In Isaac your seed shall be called."

8 That is, those who are the **children of the flesh**, these are not the children of God; but the **children of the promise** are counted as the seed.

So far: Not all of Abraham's children are God's children



Abraham's Wives and Children



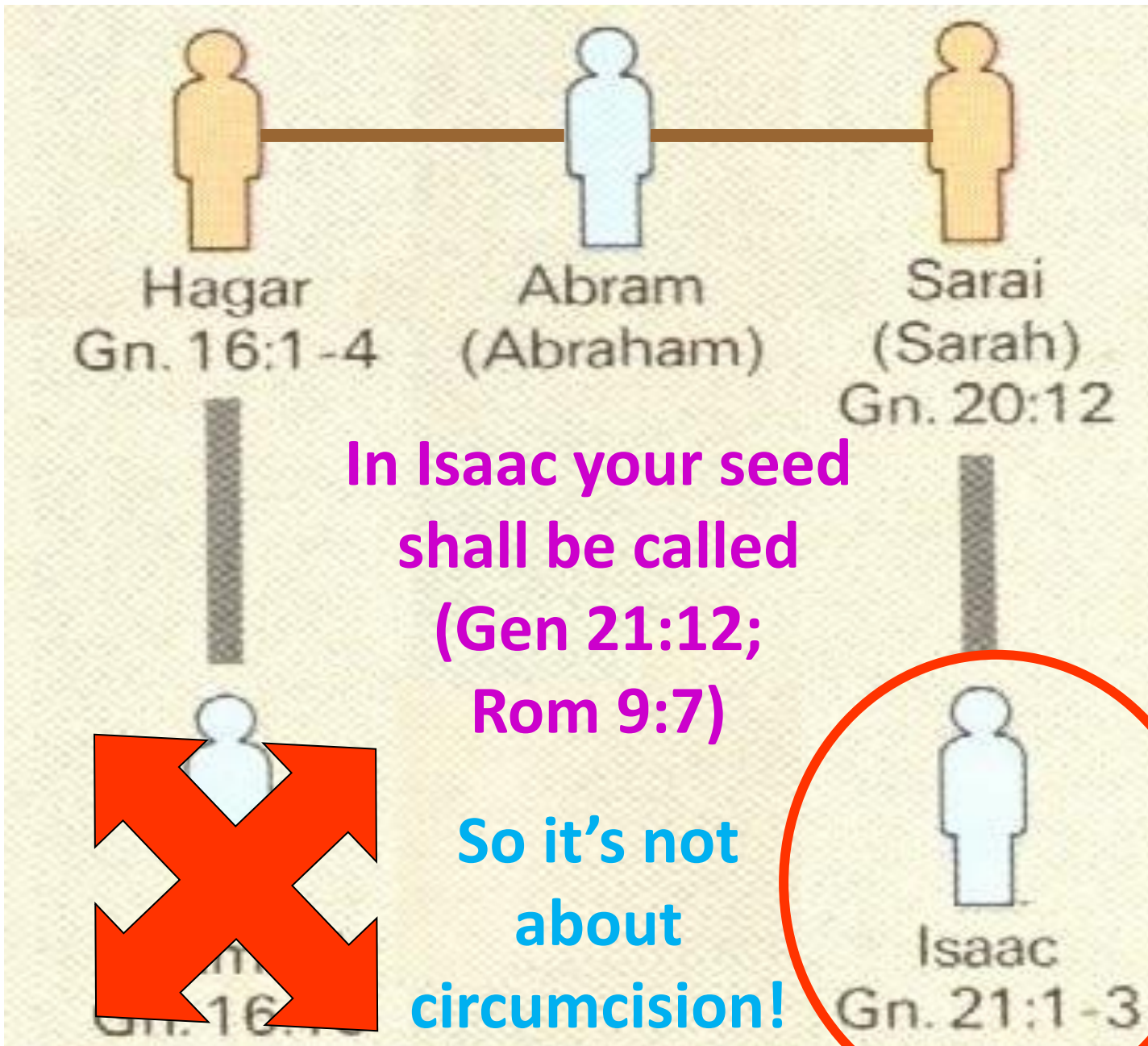
God's Election

One man,
two women,
(Hagar was a
bondswoman)

God doesn't call
Ishmael Abraham's
son (Gen 21:11-14)

Which one was
circumcised?

BOTH!



God did not call Ishmael because of how he was conceived

Romans 9:9

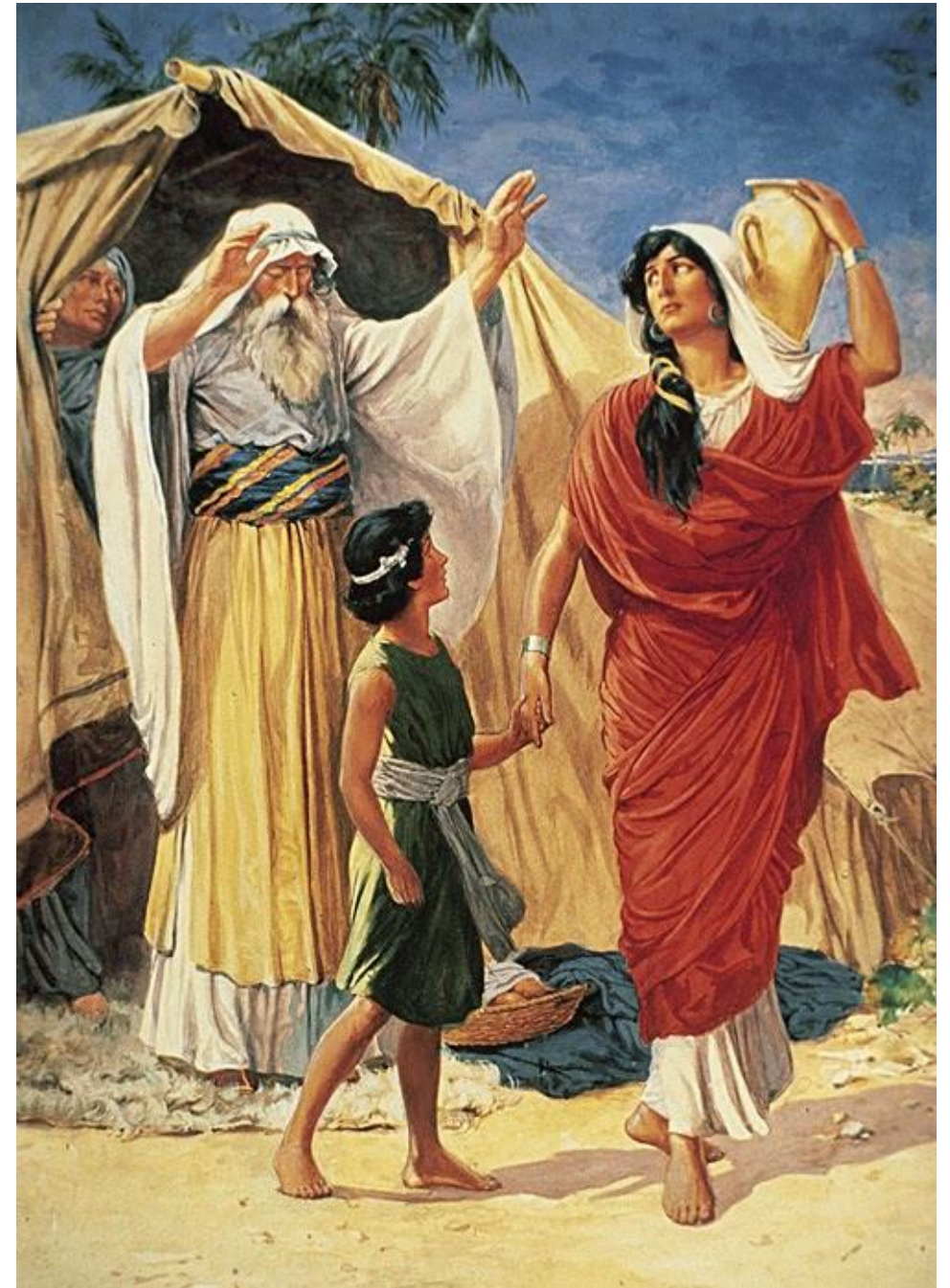
9 For this is the word of **promise**: "At this time **I will come** and Sarah shall have a son."

It's all of God! It's His election! His Choice! God did not choose Isaac just because he was Abraham's son! Isaac was God's miracle child.

"Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac (Gen 22:2)

The Jews thought God
rejected Ishmael
because he was the
son of a slave

Paul tries to get them to
realize that God rejected
Ishmael because he was
born of a plan conceived by
humans - not by God's
miraculous promise!



Basis for God's choice - His election

Romans 9:10-13

10 And not only this, but when Rebecca also had conceived by **one man**, even by our father Isaac

11 **(for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls),**

12 it was said to her, "The older shall serve the younger."

13 As it is written, **"Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated."**

**God made His choice before the kids
had done anything good or evil!**

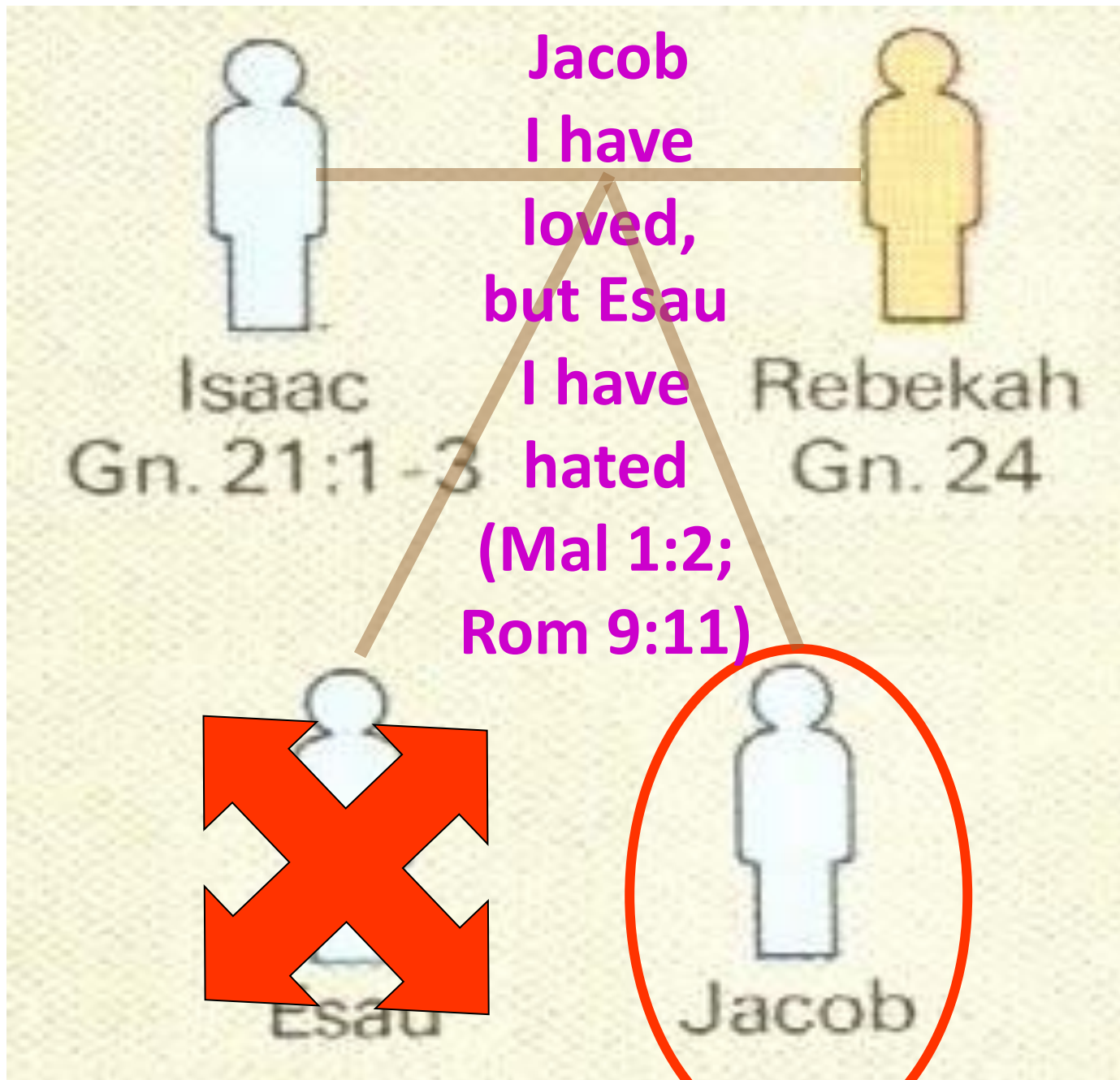
God's Election

One man, one wife

Two boys born at the same time!

God made his selection before they had done anything!

His selection involved 2 nations! Not just 2 boys! (Malachi 1:2-3)

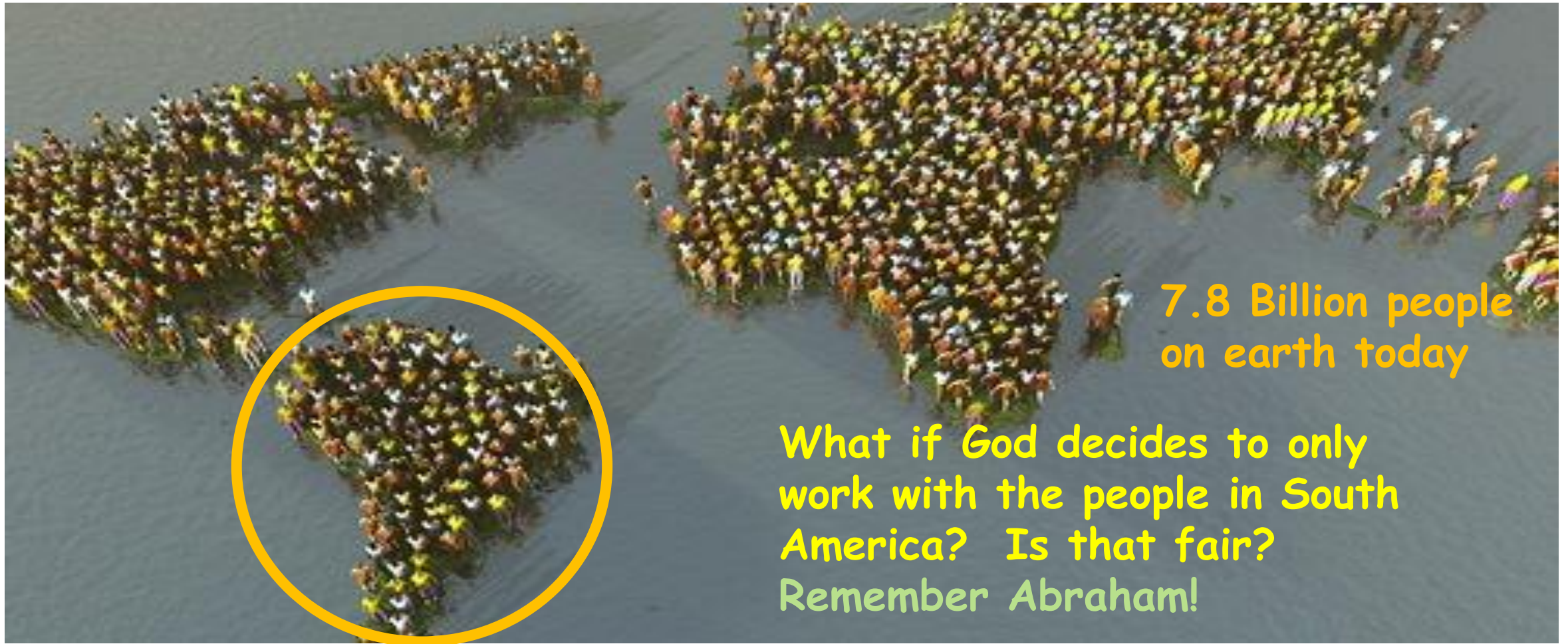


If you think God chose Jacob because of God's foreknowledge, you make a joke of Paul's logical reasoning

Jacob was NOT a better person than Esau, but God worked with him and turned him into a child of God



God's Election: He's the Potter



7.8 Billion people
on earth today

What if God decides to only
work with the people in South
America? Is that fair?
Remember Abraham!

The Key: if God didn't intervene to save people,
no one would be saved! (Read Rom 1-3 before Rom 9)

How God's Election works

Not drawn
to scale!

All people alive

Those who could be soft clay or good ground

Those God calls (He opens their eyes)

Those chosen or justified
(they respond by free will)

Those glorified
(remain faithful to the end)

How can God do that? Is it Fair? (14)

Paul gives Bible proof! (Ex 33)

- Moses wanted everyone in the whole nation forgiven: “this nation is your people” (33:13)
- God says to Moses “for **you** have found grace in my sight, and I know **you** by name” (Ex 33:17)
- God will have mercy **on whom He chooses to show mercy** (Ex 33:19)
- God, when speaking to Moses, refers to the nation now as “**your people**” (Ex 34:10)
- God pardoned the nation, but did not forgive most individuals in the community! Moses changed the pathway, but not the end result.



It's not of him who wills (man's desire), or him who runs (man's effort), but God who shows mercy (9:16)

**Abraham willed Ishmael, Isaac willed Esau,
Moses willed his whole nation, but God chose!**

God used Pharaoh to show His power & declare His Name (9:17)



- **God used Pharaoh to show God's power** and demonstrate God's salvation
- **Pharaoh had a hard heart towards Israel all along** (Ex 8:15) – Angels made sure he rose to power at the right time.
- **God hardened Pharaoh's heart** – encouraged him to do what Pharaoh wanted to do (Ex 9:12)
 - God didn't make Pharaoh evil
 - Pharaoh was influenced by his counselors (Ex 14:5)

God will have mercy on whom He wills, and harden whom He wills (18)

**Don't
FORGET!**



Not ours!

It's GOD'S Family!



Implications for our children

- **Always pray for them,** that God will choose to include them in His family
- **Do everything you can to teach them God's ways,** but also realize that it's God's choice
- **If they do choose God's family,** thank God and appreciate what He has done for them
- **Never give up!** God sometimes waits till later in life to open the eyes of our children

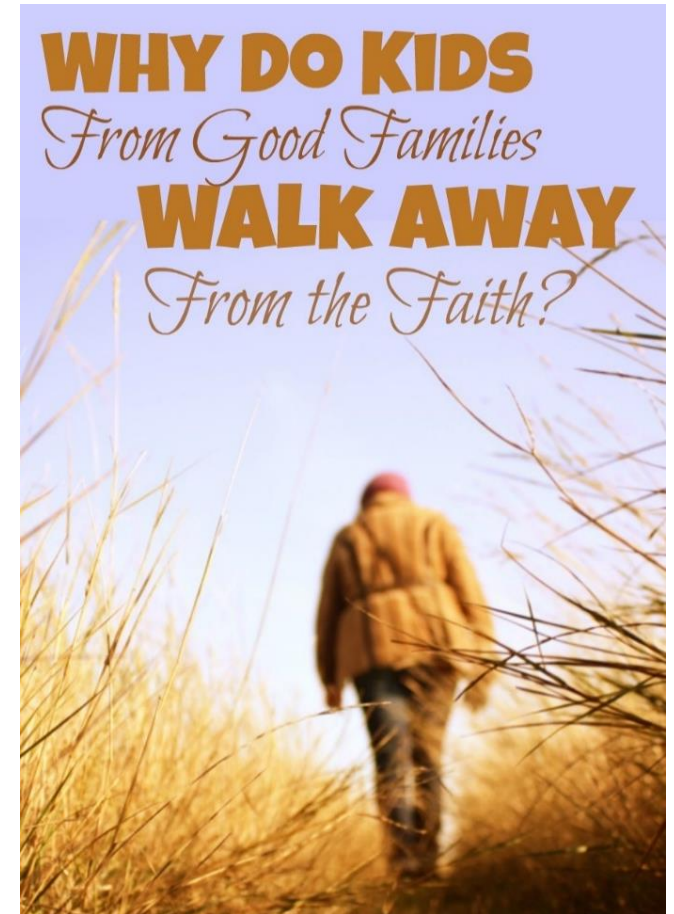


Remember Abraham's & Isaac's families!

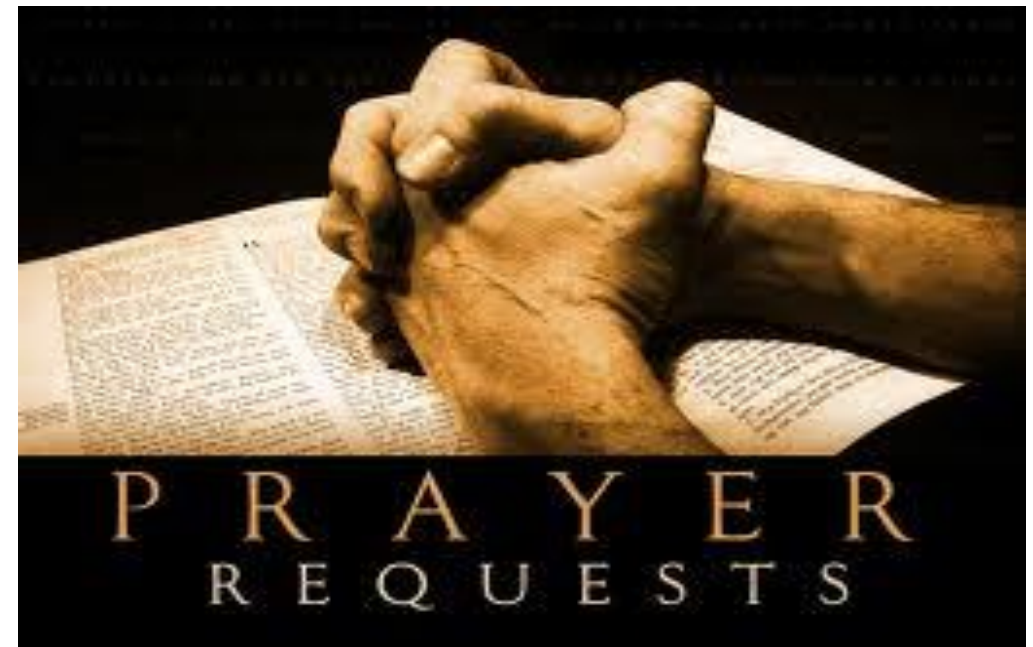
Brings some peace to those whose children have not all accepted God's Truth

- Abraham pleaded for Ishmael
- Isaac loved Esau & wanted him included
- David's family was a disaster
- God has to remind every generation that it's His family and He will call who He wants

**This is not the same as Cain & Abel.
God tried to work with them both!**



Pray for your family,
ecclesia and friends!



Ask God to graciously
include them in His election!



Not about Man's will

John 1:11-13

11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them **He gave the right to become children of God**, to those who believe in His name: 13 **who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**

Being born again or born from above is about being born of the will of God

God's Election - It's His choice

Luke 10:21-22

21 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and **revealed them to babes**. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.

22 All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and **the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him**."

God has given Jesus the authority to choose

God's Election - It's His choice

John 6:37, 44, 65

37 **All that the Father gives Me will come to Me**, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

44 **No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him**; and I will raise him up at the last day.

65 And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that **no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.**"

It's not up to us to make someone believe

God's Election - It's His choice

John 15:16

16 **You did not choose Me, but I chose you** and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

It's clear in the lives of the Apostles & Paul himself that Jesus specifically chose and called them!

Jesus chose Judas, but he didn't make it

God makes the call

Acts 2:39

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, **as many as the Lord our God will call.**"

**God's promise is only available to
those who He chooses to call**

God's Election - It's His choice

Acts 16:11-15

13 And on the Sabbath day (in Philippi) we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. 14 Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. **The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.** 15 And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us.

Until God opens, a veil lies over our minds

God calls & then enlightens

Ephesians 1:16-18 (ESV)

16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, **may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you,** what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

Without God's influence we would end up like unenlightened Paul as a Judaiser

God's Election - It's His choice

Luke 24:33-46 (NASB)

44 Now He (Jesus) said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." 45 **Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,** 46 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day,

It's up to God who He invites to His Family

God's Election - It's His choice

Joel 2:32

32 "And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be delivered; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be those who escape, as the Lord has said, **even among the survivors whom the Lord calls.**

It's up to God who He invites to His Family

God's Election - It's His choice

Ephesians 1:3-6

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

4 **just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,** that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

5 **having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,**

6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

God chose His family members before creation!

God's Election - It's His choice

Romans 8:28-30

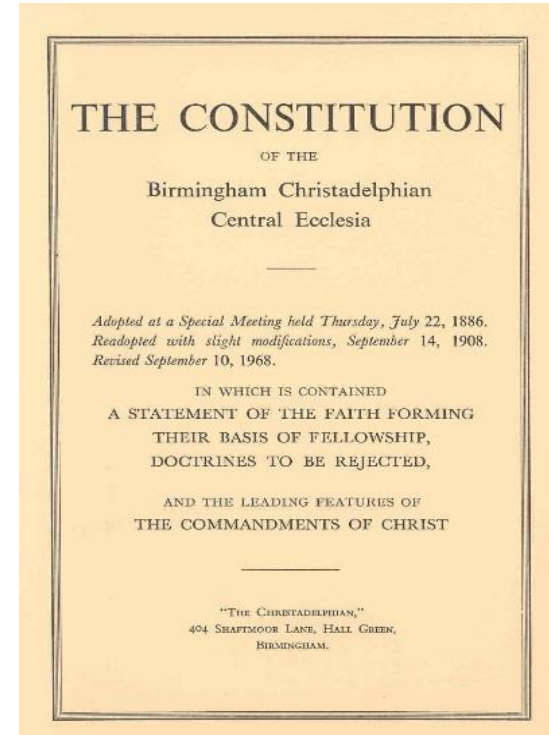
28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, **to those who are the called according to His purpose.** 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 **Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.**

He calls those who He chooses to include

Clause 24 of our BASF

24. That at the appearing of Christ prior to the establishment of the Kingdom, the responsible (namely, those who know the revealed will of God, **and have been called upon to submit to it**), dead and living – obedient and disobedient -- will be summoned before his judgment seat "to be judged according to their works," and "receive in body according to what they have done, whether it be good or bad." [2 Cor. 5:10](#); [2 Tim. 4:1](#); [Rom. 2:5-6, 16](#); [14:10-12](#); [1 Cor. 4:5](#); [Rev. 11:18](#).

We sometimes forget the essential part "and have been called upon to submit to it" or as Paul says "those who are called according to His purpose" (Rom 8:28)



Don't make this common Jewish mistake!



"The sole purpose of non-Jews is to serve Jews. Goyim were born only to serve us. They have no place in the world - only

- **They believed they were God's special people** because they were better people than the Gentiles
- **They came to believe that they were the only people worth saving,** or that could be saved, because they were Abraham's children according to the flesh

They failed to understand that God considers Abraham's real children those who have his faith!

We are God's special people

1 Peter 2:9-10

But **you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people,** that you may proclaim the praises of **Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;** 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

We are special only because God has called us out of darkness and extended His mercy to us – not because of ourselves!

What does God's election get you?

- **Didn't guarantee eternal life!** Most of Jacob's descendants were not faithful!
- **Provides you with the privilege of having God work with you**, as a Father with his child, to train you to live by faith, so you can be in His family forever! We still need to respond!



God's election provides us the privilege of a spiritual trainer with the possibility of joining Him forever

What is the basis of God's choice?



How does He
decide who to
elect?

Basis for God's choice - No flesh will glory!

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.

27 **But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;**

28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,

29 **that no flesh should glory in His presence.**

30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God-- and righteousness and sanctification and redemption--

31 that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord."

God's choice is designed so "no flesh should glory in His presence"

Those called are not better people than many who are not called

Connected to promises to our ancestors

2 Kings 8:19

19 Yet the LORD would not destroy Judah, **for the sake of his servant David, as He promised him to give a lamp to him and his sons forever.**

God's election is related to promises He made to people before we were born!

Connected to our ancestors!

Romans 11:28-29

28 Concerning the gospel they (Jews) are enemies for your sake, **but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers.**

29 For **the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.**

Israel's election is still based on promises
God made to Abraham & Isaac & Jacob

Some are chosen for specific missions

Acts 9:13-15

13 Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. 14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name."

15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, **for he is a chosen vessel of Mine** to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.

God had a mission in mind for Paul all along

Nothing we can do to deserve God's calling

2 Timothy 1:8-9

8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God,
9 **who has saved us and called us** with a holy calling, **not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began**

It has to be according to God's purpose because it's His eternal family He is creating

We can't make God call someone

2 Timothy 2:24-26

24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, **if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,** 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

**God grants some to repent, others
are not called to His family**

God takes care of His chosen

Mark 13:19-20

19 For in those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be. 20 And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; **but for the elect's sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days.**

**God loves His children and wants them
to join Him in His family forever!**

God chooses & then calls

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

13 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, **because God from the beginning chose you for salvation** through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, 14 **to which He called you by our gospel**, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God picks who He allows to hear & understand the Gospel

We still have to respond!

2 Peter 1:10-11

10 Therefore, brethren, **be even more diligent to make your call and election sure**, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

God's calling doesn't guarantee we will learn to live by faith! We have to trust God's working in our lives.

But what about....

Proverbs 22:6

6 Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

- This certainly did not work with Solomon himself, nor with Ishmael or Esau or many others
- The context is making good decisions and choices now, so the future will be better
- Hebrew scholars say the emphasis is on “he” and the passage is not about moral values. So parents should train their children for careers the child has an interest in and the children will stick with in later in life

We know many Godly parents trained their children in God's ways, but some of their children departed

But what about....

1 Timothy 2:1-6

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made **for all men** (all types of men, no matter their rank, nationality, social status or gender), 2 **for kings and all who are in authority**, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 **who desires all men (all types of people) to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth**. 5 For there is **one God** and **one Mediator** between “of” God and men [*only 1 who mediates God’s covenant to all races of men*], the Man Christ Jesus

God has no prejudice!
He will save a variety of people

But what about....

2 Peter 3:3-9

3 scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,
4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers
fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."
5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of
old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the
world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the
heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are
reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is
as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 **The Lord is not
slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is
longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all
(those believers who have been influenced by the scoffers) should come to
repentance.**

**God is very patient! He is willing to
wait for some who strayed to repent.**

Lessons from Today

- We don't deserve the opportunity to be saved – God's free gift!
- What a privilege to be called to God's family
- We can't choose who God will save
- We don't have to drill people & argue an issue to death! (God needs to open their minds)
- If some of our kids don't love God's truth, it may not be our fault – God may not have chosen them