

# Ephesians Series

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Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.





# EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK  
& WARFARE  
OF THE BELIEVER

**Choice in Him; Appointed for Service**  
**Ephesians 1:3–5**



**Eph. 1:3, “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,**

**Eph. 1:4, “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,**

**Eph. 1:5, “having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,**

**Eph. 1:6, “to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.”**



# **Key words for understanding Eph. 1:3–5**

**Foreknowledge**

**Choose**

**Predestined**

**His will**



# 1. Greek words

**ἐκλεκτός *eklektos* 22× elect, chosen**

**ἐκλέγομαι *eklegomai*, select the best  
qualified for a mission or purpose,  
appointment for a mission. 22×**

**ἐκλογή *eklogē*, picking out, the choice of  
the excellent. 7×**



# English word meanings

***elect* appointed, designated,  
commissioned,**

***choice* OED something of very good  
quality, excellent, the best, special,  
valuable.**

***select:* v. carefully choose as being the  
best or most suitable,  
adj. carefully chosen from a larger number  
as being the best**



# **Conclusion**

**Evidence exists of a range of meaning from selection based on some criterion of someone for something, selection or choice of one or more from out of a sizable number, to the idea of appointed to a task, to emphasizing the quality or character of a person or a corporate entity.**



## 2. Old Testament usage

**Rom. 9:11, “(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),**

**Rom. 9:12, “it was said to her, ‘The older shall serve the younger.’**

**Rom. 9:13, “ ‘As it is written, “Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.” ’ ”**



# **The Election of Israel**

**God appointed Avram for a mission, he was already saved. Nothing indicates God selected Avram for salvation.**



**Deut. 4:20, “But the Lord has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be His people, an inheritance, as you are this day.”**



**Isa. 41:8, “But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the descendants of Abraham My friend.**

**Isa. 41:9, “You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest regions, and said to you, ‘You are My servant, I have chosen you and have not cast you away:’ ”**



**Isa. 42:1, “Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One [My Choice One] in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.”**



**בְּחִירָה *bachir* chosen, choice, select, most excellent one**

**Coenen: *bachar, Bachir* indicates that the purpose of the choice is some commission or service NIDNTT**

**“It is always, however, accompanied by some kind of obligation or task concerned with the well-being of all the other members of the community of which the one elected forms part.”**



**Judg. 20:16, “Among all this people were seven hundred choice men who were left-handed; every one could sling a stone at a hair’s breadth and not miss.”**

**“choice almonds”  
*sheqadim mobecharim***





**“The key idea here of both the Hebrew terms and the Septuagint is in God selecting or setting apart qualified people to fulfill some commission or office.”**

**~C. Gordon Olson, *Beyond Calvinism and Arminianism***



**TWOT:**

**In all of these cases serviceability rather than simple arbitrariness is at the heart of the choosing.**

**Gen. 23:6, “Hear us, my lord: You are a mighty prince among us; bury your dead in the choicest of our burial places. None of us will withhold from you his burial place, that you may bury your dead.”**



## **Koine Papyrii**

**“A choir of slaves and freedmen was appointed”**

**“the choicest of the judges in Rome”**

**An epitaph read “I made this city the choice of cities.” Again an emphasis on quality and meeting certain qualifications.**



**In the New Testament: Christ is called the CHOICE one following a corrected translation of Isa. 42:1**

**1 Pet. 2:4, “And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God,**

**1 Pet. 2:5, “you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**

**1 Pet. 2:6, “For this is contained in Scripture: ‘BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE [*eklektos*] STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.’ ”**



**Luke 9:35, “Then a voice came out of the cloud, saying, ‘This is My Son, My Chosen One [*eklego*, MajT]; listen to Him!’ ”**



**Acts 9:15, “But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is a chosen [choice, *ekloge*] vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.’ ”**



**Matt. 22:1, “And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said:**

**Matt. 22:2, “ ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son,’ ”**



**Matt. 22:3, “ ‘and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come.’ ”**



**Matt. 22:4, “ ‘Again, he sent out other servants, saying, “Tell those who are invited, ‘See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.’ ” ’ ”**



**Matt. 22:5, “ ‘But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business.**

**Matt. 22:6, “ ‘And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them.’ ”**



**Matt. 22:7, “ ‘But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.’ ”**



**Matt. 22:8, “ ‘Then he said to his servants,  
“The wedding is ready, but those who were  
invited were not worthy.” ’ ”**



**Matt. 22:9, “ ‘ “Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.” ’ ”**



**Matt. 22:10, “ ‘So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.’ ”**



**Matt. 22:11, “ ‘But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.**

**Matt. 22:12, “ ‘So he said to him, “Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?” And he was speechless.’ ”**



**Matt. 22:13, “ ‘Then the king said to the servants, “Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ’ ”**



**Matt. 22:14, “ ‘For many are called, but few are choice.’ ”**

**No one was chosen. They are “choice” because they are dressed in imputed righteousness.**



**Isa. 61:10, “I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”**