

Being The Reality Of Jesus To A Wicked World

Reality 15. "Man, I Chose You. You Didn't Choose Me."



Pinpointing Key Facets Of The Hebraic Foundations

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A man after God's own heart has absolute trust in His sovereignty!

One of the most common contributors to **complacent mediocrity** in Christian men is that the **sovereignty of God** is just a backdrop piece of knowledge in their religious mental stockpile. Certainly few Nicolaitan clergy or anti-Semitic theologians emphasize God's sovereignty over everything and Jesus' right to rule His own as Lord. Much of contemporary Christianity both in this nation and around the world has severed the continuity and interconnectedness between the Hebrew Scriptures and the Newer Testament. And the unabashed acceptance of humanist/secular values and beliefs within much of Christianity has placed mankind on the throne to make their own choices according to what they see fit — with perhaps a few prayers directed upward to ask God to bless their endeavors. In general the emotional attitude of most Christian men toward God is indifferent until catastrophe strikes. Then they may turn toward Him to pray with greater determination until the crisis ends. And at that point their indifference returns.

Besides the widespread impact of Nicolaitanism and anti-Semitism in eliminating the crucial importance of how truly sovereign God is, a person's **unresolved bitterness** will dissolve any trust in His supreme right to exercise His will according to His own purposes. Here's how that kind of bitter distrust works.

When people are emotionally wounded, they normally focus their pain against the particular individual who hurt them. If they refuse to take hold of the grace to forgive that person (Hebrews 12:15), a malignant root of bitterness grows within them. Their bitterness against the perpetrator produces growing distrust in our heavenly Father, the One they assume should have prevented the hurtful situation. While Father may not have caused the situation, He allowed it to take place. That He does allow His children to be hurt is His right for purposes that each of His children must have absolute trust! He doesn't ask that we understand His ways — just that we have confidence that as the perfect Father He has reasons beyond our comprehension. *"Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?"* (Romans 9:21).

Job of old endured loss beyond anything most of us have had to endure. Yet can you exercise the same trust in God's sovereignty as this bereaved man? If you can't, then you'll find yourself cringing as you read his declaration of trust: *"The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD"* (Job 1:21; see also Habakkuk 3:17-19). If you don't accept the sovereignty of our Lord, then your faith walk will shrink into a "believing" which refuses to trust. You'll join so many other mediocre men who treat our sovereign God with **benign neglect**.

Our Sovereign God Reveals Himself Through Those He Chooses

It is our God's sovereign right to select and set apart specific individuals to serve His particular plans and objectives.

- The ones He chooses receive grace to repent and to put their trust in the shed blood of Jesus.

•By grace they are baptized with the Holy Spirit and given spiritual power for divine purposes.

*"But you are a **chosen people**, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may **declare the praises of Him Who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light**" (1Peter 2:9). "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of **power and of love and of a sound mind**" (2Timothy 1:7).*

People who live with total confidence in our heavenly Father and the Lordship of Jesus have a particular character quality in common – **meekness**. Meekness is a core character quality of Jesus, one we must enact throughout our lives (Matthew 5:5). Meekness isn't weakness! Rather, meekness flows from the inner strength of living under the sovereignty of God where you can resolutely affirm, **"Thy will, not my will!"** You live in the assurance that nothing can happen to you that He doesn't know about in advance and permits to happen.



God's sovereignty and privilege to choose according to His own will and purpose must be a precious truth that's lodged deep within each person who follows Jesus as Lord of their life. But men, husbands, fathers and faith community leaders are given the added responsibility to instill this truth in the hearts of those for whom they are responsible. You men must have Father's sovereignty and His right to choose at the core of your way of life so that others can follow in your steps. If you trust in His sovereignty and His right to choose, then you are also a man who is *rhema*-dependent. By His grace, His love and His power at work in you, you'll be able to fulfill the purposes for which He has chosen you. But be alert to this potential pit: ***If*** you try to diminish His sovereignty in your way of life, then you're trying to make Him just like you (Romans 12:3). Don't do it! ******.

****** Lifebyte 51, The Older Testament Foundations To The Kingdom of God ***Jesus Proclaims A Kingdom***

Our sovereign God chooses with a purpose!

✔ Abraham was chosen by God because He knew that the Patriarch would instruct his family in the *way of the Lord* — the way of obedient trust in God through which he would be declared righteous (Galatians 3:6). Abraham willingly obeyed God and fulfilled each purpose that He gave to him. Each husband/father/faith community leader is commanded to not only walk in the obedient steps of Abraham but also to disciple others into the same depth of trust in our sovereign God to which our Lord Jesus has called you (Ephesians 5:25,26; 6:4; 1Timothy 3:2; Philippians 4:9).

✔ Even as a youth tending sheep, David was chosen by God. The Almighty knew that David would stand up for His honor, and thus He could show His power through him (1Samuel 17:45-47). David is known as *a man after our Lord's own heart, who will do everything He wants him to do* (Acts 13:22; see also 1Samuel 17:45). So should each man in meekness trust in the sovereignty of our Lord for His purposes to be done in and through him. God didn't choose you based on human standards, the qualities and char-

acteristics which most people esteem. We know this because when Samuel questioned God about selecting young David to be king, He responded, *"The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart"* (1Samuel 16:7). What God sees in your heart is vital! Make sure your heart is after our Lord's heart, purposed by His grace to fully do His will.

✔ Abraham's chosen descendants, the Israelites, weren't randomly selected! Rather, God chose them to be His special treasure to accomplish His purposes (Deuteronomy 7:6). But first there was some painful preparation work that needed to be done in them collectively. God committed the Israelites to 400 years of slavery in Egypt to not only develop a national identity in them but also to reveal His power to them and to the world around them: *"But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you My power and that My Name might be proclaimed in all the earth"* (Exodus 9:16). It's in this light that the writers of the Newer Testament could affirm our Lord's sovereign purposes in bringing about trials and suffering in the lives of His followers (see Romans 5:3,4; James 1:2-4; 1Peter 1:6,7). And if you find this aspect of following Jesus hard to accept, be warned: Your grumbling is in reality rebellion against our Lord's sovereign purposes.

✔ God had a divine purpose in choosing the children of Israel as His own – to reflect the righteous wisdom that is found in His commands: *"Surely I [Moses] have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD MY GOD COMMANDED ME, that you should act according to them in the LAND WHICH YOU GO to possess. Therefore BE CAREFUL TO OBSERVE THEM for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the NATIONS WHO WILL HEAR all these statutes, and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people""* (Deuteronomy 4:6).

Our Lord Jesus gives the same instruction to all He has chosen to follow Him: *"All authority in heaven and on earth was given to Me. GOING therefore, DISCIPLE ALL THE NATIONS, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE all things that I COMMANDED you; and behold, I am with you all the days until the completion of the age"* (Matthew 28:18-20, literal translation). Fulfilling this command of discipling in obedient trust begins in your own home and extends to everyone who is in your relational sphere. Our Lord has chosen YOU to do this! If this isn't you, you need to find out why.**

** For greater insight into the proper use of authority and leadership see September 2003, [You Will Rule](#)
Also, we recommend that you read Chapter 8, [Authority Is Our Father's Means To Develop Trust](#), in our book, *Pastoring By Elders*

✔ As with His choice of the shepherd boy, David, God doesn't use evaluation standards such as fame or wealth or admirers which are so prized by the world: *"The LORD did not set His affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples"* (Deuteronomy 7:7; see also 14:2, 18:5). Today, don't look at the size of a congregation or popularity of its clergy as an indicator of success by our Lord's standards. Throughout Christendom many who occupy positions in congregation leadership are men of wealth and prestige. Don't let yourself be influenced by such people, or seek to be like them. Because of their personal acclaim and achievements, you'll find that few have the meekness to treat Jesus as Lord

of all they are and have. And even fewer are led by the *rhema* of His Spirit and bear witness to what He has said.

✔ Again, God chooses individuals for His divine purposes. Keep this in mind when you reflect on yourself and on why He specifically selected you. Let's look at some examples which clearly indicate that when God chooses someone, He also gives them the Holy Spirit to accomplish His purposes.

"See, I have chosen Bezalel...and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills—to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze" (Exodus 31:2-4; for other examples see Exodus 35:34,35; Numbers 11:17,25; Deuteronomy 34:9; Judges 3:10; 11:29; 14:6; 1Samuel 10:6; 16:13)

It's essential that you realize that God is able to choose the most unlikely people to accomplish His purposes. This is why it's important to understand that He wants to reveal His power through you no matter how little you think of your own abilities. Take Gideon for instance. When God wanted to reveal His power through him, Gideon's dubious self-appraisal was like that of many the Lord Jesus chooses, *"My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family"* (Judges 6:15). •Gideon even asked for a sign that it was God Who was commissioning him for the task (6:17,18). •Then the Spirit of God came on Gideon (6:34). •But still not convinced that he was the guy for the job, twice afterwards Gideon asked God for assurance that he'd be victorious (6:36-39). •Finally, as Gideon headed out to war with 30,000 men, God told him that his army was too many and that Israel instead of God would get the glory. So God reduced his numbers to 300 (7:2-8). We're letting you know that many of the men God chooses are "Gideons" at heart. But it takes trust in His sovereignty and trust that when He chooses you He will empower you to fulfill His purposes. A **complacently mediocre** man never experiences this wonderful privilege to serve as a soldier in and for Christ!

✔ All throughout the Bible our God attests to His desire for a love-based relationship with those He calls His own. It's been the habitual failure of Jew and Gentile alike to abide by His oft repeated connection between loving Him and keeping His commands. And our collective rebellion against God by disconnecting love and obedience has led us all into an awful predicament. Here's just one of numerous Older and Newer Testament examples of the consequences of disobedience as well as the blessings of obedience: *"I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, [Who is alone worthy of worship and trust and obedience] punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but displaying grace to the thousandth generation of those who love Me and obey My commandments"* (Exodus 20:5b,6; see also Deuteronomy 5:10; 7:9,10; Joshua 22:5; Daniel 9:4; John 14:15; 15:10; 1John 5:3).

As we've noted in our book, ***Christian Halakhahs – Loving Jesus Through The Way You Apply His Word***, you as a husband, father, or faith community leader must reveal your love for God by earnestly applying His commands to your way of life – study His commands with the intent to put them into practice! A man who claims to love God but resists or ignores applying His commands to his daily life choices is a religious blowhard of unimaginable arrogance and self deceit. Meek he is not!

Get It Right! Father Has Divine Purpose In Choosing You *You Just Getting To Heaven Isn't Even Close To Why He Chose You*

Your life here on earth is a pilgrimage, an ongoing journey of serving our Lord's purposes with every ounce of love and strength you have until you see Him on the other side in eternity. There's no room for laziness and self-service in the Kingdom of our Lord. You have been called to a far greater purpose than satiating your own desires and goals the way the rest of the world does.

*"He has saved us and **called us to a holy life**—not because of anything we have done but because of **His own purpose and grace**. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time" (2Timothy 1:9).*

*"...we pray for you always, that our God will count you **worthy of your calling** and fulfill every desire for goodness and **the work of faith with power, stemming from your trust**" (2Thessalonians 1:11).*

✔ The Older Testament contains some 300+ prophecies which foretell the coming of our Lord Jesus, and a number of these describe His purposes for living among us:

"The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners" (Isaiah 61:1; see Luke 4:18).

When our Lord Jesus became man, He Himself was the embodiment of wisdom and power to reveal His Father to the world. After the Holy Spirit descended on Him at the Jordan River, His ministry of revealing that wisdom and displaying divine power began. Our Father spoke of Jesus in an intimate relational way: **"This is My Son, whom I have chosen; listen to Him"** (Luke 9:35). As our Father's child, you have been called to live the way of the Lord so that our Father can say the same about you. Anchor this intentional way of life for yourself as a man of purpose: **"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"** (Ephesians 2:10); **"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose"** (Romans 8:28).

✔ Don't even begin to think that you chose to belong to Jesus. Instead, anchor the more important truth: **He chose you!** This relationship began when He recruited you by His Spirit through repentance and trust so that you would bear lasting fruit which would proclaim His presence and power in your life:

*"You did not choose Me, but **I chose you** and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in My name the Father will give you. ... If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but **I have chosen you out of the world**, therefore the world hates you" (John 15:16,19).*

✔ Don't ever prejudge the specific people our Lord chooses for His purposes. His selections are certainly not individuals the world admires! For example, Moses (Exodus

2:11,12) and David (2Samuel 11:15) were murderers. Paul, the murderer/persecutor of followers of Jesus, was chosen for a distinct purpose which our Lord explained to the reluctant Ananias: *"But the Lord said to Ananias, 'Go! **This man is My chosen instrument to proclaim My Name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.** I will show him how much he must suffer for My Name'"* (Acts 9:15,16). If you thought everything would go well for you when our Lord chose you, you're dead wrong.

Suffering and facing trials and being mocked or hated for following our Lord Jesus are part of the *way of the Lord* that most Christians in this land avoid. They'd much rather enjoy the complacency of "**creature comfort**" that's found in sitting in a crowd every Sunday. If this personal preference describes your own experience, or if you're fearful of being rejected by people who either have no relationship with Jesus or who outrightly scorn your belief in Him, then you need to discover if you actually LOVE Jesus. Plead with Him for help in developing the kind of love that flows from you in word and deed in His name! Our Lord's words to His first disciples are just as needed by you as they were for them: *"A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained **will be like his teacher**"* (Luke 6:40; see 2Corinthians 3:17,18). The way of life of our Lord Jesus must be your way of life—*proclaiming good news to the poor, binding up the brokenhearted, proclaiming freedom for the captives and releasing the prisoners from darkness.*

Our own recruitment to share the Hebraic Foundations

We had no plans to ever go to Israel. Mike had been taught that God was through with the Jewish people and that Christianity had replaced Israel in His promises to them. (It was only after being in Israel for awhile that he went through the entire Hebrew Bible asking the Holy Spirit to reveal to him God's view of the Jewish people.) Sometime before we went to live in Israel, an older prophet and mentor of Mike prophesied to him that he would be a man who would "establish the foundations". Holding Mike close he cried as he told Mike that he would face rejection, a rejection he couldn't have imagined then. Several years later, on the very day we received a *rhema* from the Holy Spirit to go to Israel to live with friends, Mike knelt down by the couch. He let his Bible to flop open as he asked Jesus why we were going to Israel. The Spirit focused his eyes on this passage:

*"Get yourself ready! **Stand up and say to them whatever I command you.** Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them. Today I have made you a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall **to stand against the whole land**—against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests and the people of the land. **They will fight against you** but will not overcome you, for **I am with you and will rescue you,**' declares the LORD"* (Jeremiah 1:17-19).

Mike wasn't sure how those verses were going to play out for him, but he knew that our stay in Israel wasn't going to be a pleasure trip. We then received other prophecies that we were being sent to Israel to return to the US with a prophetic message. And we were told that the US would be the hardest place for these truths to bear fruit because Hellenism owned Christianity here. During our final days in the Promised Land, the Holy Spirit revealed to us His purpose for our lives and what we were going to face as we fulfilled that purpose (Isaiah 6:5-10).** Later in the US, after finishing our last book, *Pas-*

✳️ Watch our video: [How We Got This Prophetic Message](#) for more insight.

toring By Elders, the Holy Spirit told us that none of our efforts would bear fruit until “**the Dark Days of Chastisement**” descended on this nation. If you're reading this and have con-

firmed with the Holy Spirit that the Hebraic foundations are from Him, then know that far more people reject these truths (and the two of us) than have embraced them by His Spirit and put them into practice. But the coming Dark Days will change this spiritual blindness.

Don't let others down. Be a man after God's own heart.

We've previously shared these seven biblical character attributes which differentiate you from those who don't belong to our Lord Jesus. Seek the help of others who love and serve our Lord, and with prayer instill each one into your life as *the way of the Lord* for you:

1. **They live repentantly, confessing and turning from any sin to God's way of living.**
2. **They live humbly, with a deferential heart that wholly serves their Lord Jesus.**
3. **Their love for our Lord Jesus flows from their appreciation for His sacrifice for them.**
4. **They trust in our Lord Jesus wholeheartedly, on par with the trust of Abraham.**
5. **Their lives are led by *rhema*, the specific guidance of the Holy Spirit.**
6. **They live by grace with Jesus as the Lord Who loves and commands them.**
7. **They live purposefully as children of the Father to actively fulfill His will and bring Him glory and praise.**

Don't ever let **complacent mediocrity** describe you! The Israelites, like too many Christians over the centuries, became self-satisfied and failed to keep God's righteous commands for His purpose to reveal Himself to the nations. Anti-Semitic theology only compounded this rebellious complacency for the Gentiles by their failure to regard the Hebrew Scriptures as relevant to their lives. While many may give lip service to the Ten Commandments, the crucial importance of the Older Testament as the foundation for the Newer Testament and the only way to make divine sense of it was eradicated. If you are a husband, a father, or a faith community leader, don't cast away the foundational Hebraic underpinning of our Lord Jesus and His purpose for calling a people out of the world system into His Kingdom.

And don't allow anti-Semitic theology to give you a false sense of confidence that all is well with you in serving your own purposes and goals. Remember, in the Older Testament God evicted Israel from the land He promised them because their hearts hardened in distrust and disobedience (see Hebrews 3:7-19). And again, after Jesus ascended into heaven, the Romans again removed the Israelites from the Promised Land. Not until 1948 did God allow them to be restored as a nation once more. And not until 1967 did Israel get Jerusalem back. Are you a foolish man who is willing to push God by your complacent mediocrity and self-willed way of life? Then consider that there is no guarantee that you will arrive in heaven without abiding by His commands out of love for Him and ongoing trust in Him (see Hebrews 3:12-15; 6:4-8; 2Peter 2:20-22).

Addressing the complacent mediocrity of so many whites in keeping quiet and doing nothing about racial injustice, Martin Luther King said, **“If You've Got Nothing Worth Dying For, You've Got Nothing Worth Living For.”** Who are you willing to give up your life for? If one more soul would make it into heaven because you forfeited your own life, would you do it? Don't let the utilitarian religious establishment deceive you. "Nominally Christian" men and “feather merchants” are the cowardly compromisers who have no part in heaven (Revelation 21:8). Your trust in the sovereignty of our Lord Jesus and in His selection of you for His purposes is your best defense against utilitarian religious dross!***

Our own sense of unworthiness has stirred in us the need to encourage others to be prepared and wholly available for our Lord Jesus to use them. We are well aware of our own frailties and are filled with wonder that He has chosen us to do what we are doing as a cog in His wheel of sovereign purpose. We certainly wouldn't have chosen us! But we know His amazing love and grace toward us. And we've witnessed over and over that living repentantly and being alert to His Spirit's *rhema* are key to us being used as instruments He has chosen to serve His purposes.

Mike & Sue

*** See our 2009 Prophetic Insight: [*Men, it's time for duty!*](#)