

**WHY DID GOD Choose YOU specifically? part 1**  
[www.LightontheRock.com](http://www.LightontheRock.com)

If you've ever wondered why YOU *specifically* were chosen out of billions of people, listen to this 2-part sermon. Has God predestined just a select *number* of people, or is it more specific than that? WHO makes the selection? WHEN did you first show up in God's plan? What role do your *ancestors* play in your present life? What impact will *you* have on generations to come?

.....

Some time ago I got an email from someone who seemed very depressed. She's in God's church, knows the general prophecies and promises ahead, but wonders why God called *her*. She knows God is not at this time trying to convert the world but is first starting with a smaller harvest, a group called "the first fruits". She knows the main harvest comes later. She understands that the first fruits are being called now to be priests, rulers and teachers for the others who will follow in the coming Millennium. We *know* God is building a temple, a kingdom. We know He'll have a lot for us *to do* and that we won't be sitting for eternity in some Beatific vision forever and ever and ever. We understand we won't be sitting on clouds for eternity strumming our harps. Maybe some of you don't even *like* harp music. Don't worry. That's not the future!

*She knows all that.* So do you, if you've been a regular listener or a member of God's church.

But *her* questions went along like this: "I know why God is calling a few now in a *general* way. But why ME specifically? What do *I* bring to the picture? I have nothing much to offer, so why me? Maybe there's been a mistake. There are *millions* of better, brighter, nicer, more righteous, more gifted people. Maybe I haven't even really been called! Why would even God *bother with* someone like *me*?"

Have *you* ever wondered why God called *you*? Have you ever had the same questions she had? I have. I don't think her questions were unusual. I think *many* of God's people sometimes suffer from a sense of failure, of worthlessness, of a lack of purpose. Have we lost a sense of belonging, of being part of some grand, heroic *cause*? Some of you are very old, while others are very young. Some of you feel too poor, too crippled, unable to do much now for anyone. Some of you are in faraway lands and parts of the country – too far away to be "part of the action". Some of you are in Africa, or eastern Europe, or Asia. So the questions persist. Why you?

Others wonder why God waited so *long* to call them. Why didn't He call you when you were younger, stronger, and healthier? Others were "born into the church" – with believing parents. And we watch as some of them don't seem to value that calling and "leave the church". Why? What happened? Were *they* truly called? We can wonder – were *they* called?

So I took on the challenge of trying to answer the question of why God called *you* specifically – and why *now*? I hope you'll find this 2-part message thought provoking and inspiring.

If this message helps you, and if you know others struggling with this kind of topic or the other topics we have, please tell them about this message and website [www.Lightontherock.com](http://www.Lightontherock.com) . Spread the word. One more thing: I recommend, always, you get a **transcript** to follow along. Or, if you always just read the transcript, **try downloading the audio** some time. Each has its merits. You'll get more out of these messages if you try it both ways once in a while. But be sure to tell others about this service if you're finding it helpful to you.



**So back to the question:** WHY did God call you – and why NOW? Right off the bat, let me caution you: *We're not God. We will not fully know all the reasons, or even the main reasons, why God called me and called YOU specifically. But I'm hoping that by the time we're done with both parts 1-2 of this sermon series, we'll be able to give you a few possibilities, maybe even probabilities as to why God chose YOU, that you may not have thought of before.*

*Having said that, we can't even begin to comprehend the complete picture we will be a part of – for God is planning something way beyond our wildest dreams (Ephesians 3:20). But we can trust that God is preparing us for something that will bring Him glory and we'll also share in His glory (Matthew 25:31; Hebrews 2:10 – bringing many sons to glory).*

Many seem to feel God is **just looking for a certain magical number of people – and He picks and chooses MANY, throws them all against the wall – and sees how many stick. Is that it?** Those who have the ability, energy, the will, and the character to stick to the wall, to hang on to the end, to somehow on their strength “make it” – are *those* the ones who will be in the final elect number? It can sure seem that way sometimes. But if that were the way it's supposed to happen, *who* would get the glory – you, or God? (**Romans 4:11-18**).

Let's start by identifying real clearly WHO makes the selection of who is called now.

### **WHO DOES THE CALLING – and then the CHOOSING?**

**WHO draws you to Himself – God the Father or Jesus?** If you've heard my sermon on “God, the Ultimate Father” and my series on “The Mystery of Christ and the Church”, you'll understand that I teach what *Jesus* said: “My Father is greater than I” (**John 14:28**). Jesus referred to God the Father as “My GOD, and my Father” (**John 20:17**). God the Father is called “God in the Highest” (**Luke 2:14**) and **the head of Jesus is God (1 Corinthians 11:3)**. They are not equal in rank, authority, power or glory – even though traditional Trinity teaching says so – it's not correct. The Father is clearly the Highest. Father put all authority and power under Jesus, except God Himself, after Jesus' resurrection (**Matthew 28:18; 1 Corinthians 15:27-28**), and we are to honor, believe in, glorify Jesus as we do the Father (**John 5:20-30**). Please take the time to slowly read **John 5:20-30** on your own some time.

**Please be turning to John 6.** Generally speaking, God the Father is having The Word – Jesus Christ – do the creating, speak the plans of God, and work with people who are called. Jesus is the more visible part, if that's the right term, of what God is. Jesus was the visible God who was seen and heard in the Old Testament by Adam and Eve, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Samson's parents, and many others. But *no one* has seen *God the Father* at any time (**1 John 4:12; John 1:18**). Jesus was The Rock who led Israel (**1 Cor. 10:4**). Jesus has been God's mouthpiece, God's messenger, God's servant, God's son – and the One through which Father has always worked.

*But there is one HUGE area God the Father has NOT delegated or relegated to anyone, not even to Jesus. You know what it is? This is one area Father holds dear and close to Himself. HE personally does this job and no one else – not even Jesus—does this task.*



**John 6:44** “No one can come to Me *unless the Father who sent Me draws him*; and I will raise him up at the last day.” You know the word “draws” him has the connotation of “DRAGS” him? Check the Greek! God is so merciful to us. Sometimes we are not so eager to be invited or chosen. Remember Lot? He had to be dragged out of the city of Sodom. Moses wasn’t so eager to be invited to help out in the beginning either.

**Verse 65** repeats it: “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.”

Then in **John 6:45**, Jesus says those who learn of the Father *next* come to Jesus, who takes over the task for preparing us for that kingdom of God. And He does it perfectly!

The point is: Yes, the Supreme God, the Father of Jesus, the God being whom Jesus said was HIS God (**John 20:17**) – it was *this* supreme God-the-Father who called *you* – *hand-picked you*, even perhaps “dragged” you out of this world’s society. Some of you will willingly remember and admit that you did *not* want to be called at first, perhaps, and God dragged out of this world kicking and screaming in the beginning, perhaps.

*If you’ve ever felt “lost in the crowd”, unnoticed, unappreciated, even unwanted – wake up to the fact that YOU were personally planned and selected by none other than God the Highest, the most incomprehensible personality in the universe. God, the God and father of Jesus Christ, hand picked you Himself.*

**How special is the fact that GOD THE FATHER Himself called you? I need you to let this sink in! He picked YOU to become part of what is called “the body of Christ”, to be the very WIFE of Christ His Son, and to be the teachers, priests and rulers of the Kingdom of God. After the wedding, no one else be allowed to be the bride of Christ or to be in the FIRST resurrection. But YOU are being called for that spot!**

**You didn’t deserve it, you didn’t earn it. It’s *not* because there’s anything super special about you or me.** It’s just the way God chose to do it, for His reasons. It should not make us feel superior to anyone, but rather should make us feel humbled, since we are so undeserving of all this.

**Don’t confuse being “called” with “chosen”. Matthew 22:14 says “Many are called, but few are chosen.”**

A *full* explanation of the difference is for another time – but for now, remember ‘MANY are called, but *few* are chosen.’ I’ll just say this for time’s sake: The word “called” refers to being **invited**, as those invited to the wedding supper but took the invitation lightly. MANY were invited, but *few* chose to RSVP; few chose to actually *choose* to show up at the wedding.

**The Greek word for “chosen” is the same word used for “the elect”.** Remember Jesus said the end time will be cut short “for the elect’s sake”, the sake of the chosen-- (**Matthew 24:22**) or no flesh would be saved alive. Then the angels – in **Matthew 24:24**-- gather up to Christ, not the “called” – but just the *elect*, the ones who chose to *respond* to their invitation. **In Rev. 17:14**, we’re told that those who are with Christ when He returns are – notice the sequence – “**the called, chosen and faithful**”. We have to be invited or called, then we have to *respond* and be *chosen* as the elect, and then we have to *endure* to the end, remaining faithful to God to the end.



We'll talk about all this in depth at a later time. I think you'll be amazed how God the Father is involved in all aspects of it, though Jesus has a *huge* role once we're called. But God says HE even does the choosing (**John 15:16**) after He turns us over to Christ to work with and perfect (**John 6:37-39, 44, 65; John 17:2, 6, 24**).

Now turn to **Ephesians 2:4-7** please. God sees the end from the beginning and for His glory chose you – and as far as *He* is concerned, if we endure to the end – He sees us as *already* sitting with Christ on His throne.

**Ephesians 2:4-7** “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 **and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,** 7 **that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**”

### **SO NO ONE CAN BOAST...**

**1 Corinthians 1:26-31 NIV** – as you've heard it many times in the KJV and NKJV...

**“Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28** He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him. 30 **It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus,** who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written: “Let him who boasts [NKJV: glories] boast in the Lord.”

**\*\*\*GOD called and chose YOU and me specifically, is to show what He can do with and through ORDINARY people.**

He is not doing His Work primarily with the gifted news anchors. He is NOT subsidizing His gospel through donations from billionaires and millionaires. God is not even “running” His church through talented money managers, people handlers, or anything of the sort. We know that, don't we? He is accomplishing His purpose with very ordinary people to *shame* the wise and the strong of the world – so we cannot boast of “making it” on our own merits!

**VERSES 30-31 make it clear:** it is through what God is doing in us through Christ JESUS who has become our righteousness, holiness and redemption. If we're doing anything helpful to God, it is because of Christ in us, not our own righteousness and goodness.

**Think what God accomplished from 12 disciples who were very ordinary men:** 3-4 were ordinary fishermen. One was a despised tax collector. One was what we might call an “insurgent”—or in the least, a hotly fanatical stickler to Mosaic ritual (Simon the Zealot). We know almost *nothing* about the background of most of the disciples – probably because there isn't much to know about them. Most of them came from the ‘back hills country. Several were brothers – like Peter and Andrew; James and John. But these unknown, unskilled, unlearned men turned the world on its ear! They were not educated in any well known school or seminary. But after the Resurrection, the world took note, that they “had been with Jesus” (**Acts 4:13**).



Well, you and I can also be with Christ if we let Him speak to us via His word, as I point out in the sermon titled “Manna”.

**Jesus had transformed these men!** Jesus can – and must – transform *us* too. Sure, we all fail a lot. I do. You do. And people can call us “hypocrites” for not perfectly following what we believe, but a lot of that is because we *are* the weak of the world, the “offscouring” of society (1 Cor. 4:13). I must say this about me, and you probably nod the same about you:

*“I’m not YET what I’m supposed to be, I’m not yet what I’m going to be. But thanks be to God, I am no longer what I WAS!”*

*I think that says it. God has a ways to go yet in perfecting us, but that perfection was realized in JESUS who will clothe us with His righteousness.*

But just ordinary people – called to do very extraordinary things. To change what we are. To become *converted* to God’s way. God gets all the credit and all the glory because HE is the One affecting the change (1 Cor. 1:26-30).

**One lady called me many years** ago and basically said, “I would like to attend your church”. I asked why. She answered, **“because whatever you’ve done for my two sisters, I’d like you to do for me.”** I asked what she meant, and she went on to say how they had made a total turnaround in conduct, language, behavior, attitude, demeanor – everything – and “now I want you to do the same for me.” I laughed and said I had done nothing for them, but I could introduce her to the cleansing work of her Savior and that HE is the One with the spiritual spot remover, HE is the one with the spiritual iron to remove wrinkles and faults and blemishes. Praise be to God. What a testimony those two women brought for God and His work.

THESE are the people God is calling. People like **ELIJAH** – “a man with a nature just like ours”, we’re told in **James 5:17**. Poor widows like the one who gave her last 2 cents or mites. Mobs called for Paul’s death, “for he is unfit to live” (**Acts 22:22**). Many of the prophets were shepherds, sycamore tree tenders, and ordinary people. David was a mere shepherd.

So YOU are in good company! God wants those who *do* have the talent, the background, the natural abilities, the wealth, and the contacts – to be shamed by what He can do with very ordinary people like you and me when we get ourselves out of the way and let His spirit work in us!

***So that’s point number 1 – to shame the wise and to bring glory to Him and His power.***

But who were the “mighty and noble”? I’ll take 6-7 minutes to tell you of a few, so you realize there are some of those even called. Why? Because God wants a sampling of all types of humans so they can *relate* to others in the Kingdom.

We don’t have attending with us, certainly, any governors, senators, millionaires, celebrities. None of us is in the world’s “who’s who”. A book about you and me might be titled “The What’s That?”, instead of “Who’s Who”. (ha!)

I thought you might be surprised at who I think were of royalty and of nobility or the “mighty” of the world.



**HERE ARE SOME OF THE MIGHTY AND NOBLE. I'm sure I've missed some.**

**ABRAM / SARAI** Some feel Abram and Sarai were prince/princess. **Josephus Book1, chapter 7** says he actually “**reigned in Damascus**” a while. This would certainly explain how he could not have gone into an area – like Egypt – without everyone noticing. First of all, he had a **royal-sized entourage**, especially for that day, or even by today's standard. He had 318 trained men for war, not even *counting* perhaps hundreds more regular servants, shepherds, workers *and their families*. When Abraham moved, several *thousand* people would be part of his entourage, easily. Remember he was VERY wealthy in terms of livestock as well, so *large herds and flocks* moved with him when he traveled. There is also ample evidence that Abraham could well have been the teacher of the sciences and astronomy and high mathematics to the Egyptians. It might fascinate you to realize that God had to call Abraham *twice* before He actually went all the way into Canaan. The first time, he stopped at Haran and waited for his dad to die (**Acts 7:1-4**), then God had to nudge him *again* and this time to leave his family (**Genesis 11:31-32; 12:1**) and go all the way! This is how the man who became “father of the Faithful” started!

**JOSEPH – though he was apparently called as a simple teenager, he became very great.** He became the #2 man in Egypt at its zenith. Certainly a Prime Minister at least. Pharaoh called him Zaphenath-paneah (“savior of the world”) and married him to Asenath, daughter of Potipherah, the priest of On (**Gen. 41:45**). Josephus says this priest was none other than Potiphar, who had made up to Joseph by then and gave Joseph his daughter in marriage. This promotion took place when Joseph was thirty years of age (**Gen 41**), about 1883 B.C

**MOSES** Raised as a son of the Pharaoh in the courts of Egypt. From the time he was a baby, everyone knew he was special because of his unusual beauty and size. (**Hebrews 11:24-28**). Moses' parents, according to Josephus, were told in a dream that Moses would be a deliverer. Moses seemed to think so too, when you read **Acts 7:23-25**.

**ESTHER**

Esther (meaning Star) – the Jewish orphan. **Josephus**, the famous Jewish historian, says she “**was herself of the royal family also**” (*Antiquities of the Jews, Book 11, chapter 6*, paragraph 1) Esther became a queen in the Persian empire, wife of Ahasuerus, whom many feel was Xerxes, but Josephus and others wrote was actually the son of Xerxes, called Artaxerxes in history. Whatever... she could have been of royal descent, but in any case God used her to become the wife of the greatest man on earth in their day. Queen of a mighty empire. God used her to save the Jewish people from ethnic cleansing and eradication.

**RUTH, the poor Moabite widow.** Also a surprise: the Rabbis say she was a daughter, or descendant, of King Eglon of Moab. I have found that hard to verify – but who knows?

**DANIEL and DANIEL'S 3 FRIENDS** We're clearly told in **Daniel 1:3** that they were “*some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles*”. So Daniel was royalty, and probably also was made a eunuch. Not uncommon for those serving near the king and his harem.

**ZERUBABEL, MARY AND JOSEPH**

**Zerubbabel** – which means “seed of Babylon” was of the line of David, somehow connected to King Jeconiah. Whatever may have been his blood relationship to Jeconiah, the Scriptures teach that Zerubbabel was his legal successor, of the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> generation.



So were **Joseph and Mary** – though it didn't mean much by then to be a descendant of royalty. Some of *you* may be descended from royalty too, but just don't know it. So what?

### THE SUPREME COURT MEMBER

**Acts 17:34** – Dionysius the Areopagite was an early believer. The “Aeropagus” was the equivalent to our Supreme Court – so the “Areopagite” a supreme Court justice. Carole and I have been to the Areopagus in Athens, a hill where these decisions were made, and we've dined in a little diner next to where Mars Hill was and where Paul gave his famous sermon about the “unknown God.”

### CAESAR'S HOUSEHOLD

**Philippians 4:22** “All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of *Caesar's household*.” He also spoke of the gospel being known among “the palace guard” – **Phil. 1:13**.

Did you GET that? Some of the early church members were from the very family, very *household, of the emperor!!!* They probably didn't want that voiced around too much, but that is in scripture for us to know. At the very least, these would be people who *worked* in the palace, but the Greek clearly says ‘household’.

But for the most part, there weren't many of these nobles and royalty. But you aren't among the “noble”? So what? Who are they, compared to the new calling we all have who have been called by God!? Certainly God wanted some royalty, some mighty of this world to be called – so there would be some in His Kingdom who could relate to royalty and mighty more than you or I could.

You teens and children hearing this may not think of your Dad and Mom and brothers and sisters, or of yourself, as royalty, as being a prince or princess, but you are that! You may, or may not, have royal blood in your family tree. That doesn't matter. Many royalty lead awful lives, full of sin. So even a royal pedigree would be just rubbish **now compared to the calling you now have (Phil 3:3-8)**. So, **you're not the son or daughter of a human king or queen, or even a tribal ruler. So you're not descended from Richard the Lionhearted, Shaka Zulu, or the Ming Dynasties or even the Shoguns – but are being groomed to be the son or daughter of God the Father, the Supreme God, God in the Highest, of the entire universe.**

Talk about having royal blood! Do you see it! Do you think often of that high calling? Does it keep you awake at nights from all the excitement that you have been called by God Himself to be among the very few chosen? You're being offered the mother lode, brethren!

It doesn't matter if you're hearing this in a village in Kenya, or in a city in the USA or off the internet. You could be among the precious few God is personally working with in Uganda, or a widow in New York or a teenager in California. Doesn't matter! Value, cherish, guard and love God and praise Him for your high calling.

What's in your future? Why don't we talk about it more? To be co-heir with CHRIST over all things ever created; CO-HEIR of the universe. When God the Father grants this to Jesus Christ as King of Kings, You and I will be His wife. A wife shares in everything a loving husband has! She inherits these things with Him (**Romans 8:14-18**) as His righteousness is imputed to His bride by faith (**Rom. 4:13-16**) in Him.



You have a very, very high calling and God doesn't take lightly when we treat that calling with disrespect! We are being called to be the building on the foundation of Jesus Christ, the beginning of the Kingdom of God. We are being called to be born again, for without being born again, none shall see the kingdom of God (**John 3:3**).

*Later in this sermon – perhaps in the 2<sup>nd</sup> message – we will address “to what have we been called? For what purpose?” It is not just for selfish ambition or ‘bragging rights’. Not at all. You’ve been called for specific reasons we’ll get to next time... But for now let’s move on building the foundation of these concepts.*

### **WHEN did God begin to call and choose you?**

**Next question: WHEN did God call you and choose you?** Is it this way?: God just foreknows He needs a certain “magic” number of people and so He calls a lot of people, throws them against the wall like so much mud, and then waits to see who sticks? Is that the way it works? Not on your life!

**When you understand that God is building His temple, and He is the MASTER BUILDER of His house, you have to know that He has designed and planned for every single block, every single piece of equipment, that goes into that temple.** A master builder who is building the ultimate temple, would not just go down to the lumber yard and buy a bunch of wood. He's going to order the exact kind of wood, and perhaps even order specific trees from a specific area to be cut and prepared for this special building. Same with the stonework. They will specially carve out, prepare, and design individual stones for specific spots.

If a master builder will do that, do we expect *God* – who has been designing His spiritual temple, His spiritual family – to do anything less?

### **So why were YOU called? Specifically YOU?**

**The frank answer is that you won't fully know the specific reasons until you are shown the exact spot in GOD'S spiritual temple you're being prepared for!** Then, everything you are going through, all the experiences you are suffering, every ordeal, every joy, every hurt, every experience will come to light as to how they were made to fit into God's purpose for His glory and purpose. Let that sink in! *And, as we go through this topic today and next time, you'll go away with some definite possibilities beyond even this.*

**So WHEN did God know and plan you?** Many of you will probably disagree with me, but here's what I have come to believe: *God would not leave His building parts to chance.* He designed and planned each piece from the beginning. *His temple is not coming together by evolution – but by design and purpose.* I believe it goes way, way back when God knew exactly what He wanted in **each section of His building.**

**God IS planning and building His building, His holy temple. Heb 3:3-6 – v. 6 “but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house WE are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.”** We are His temple – 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Eph. 2:21-22; 1 Timothy 3:15, etc.



***This message is not focusing on being the building of God, except for the fact it is, it has to be, a carefully planned out building, down to every little tiny detail. If YOU are part of that building, YOU had to be planned out ahead of time long ago as well.***

***Get THIS: just as a building that has not yet been started is already PERFECTLY designed, drawn out, thought out, and is already FINISHED in the MASTER ARCHITECT's mind, so is God's temple. So is God's family. God does not have children by accident. EACH of you, EACH of God's children is a planned child.***

I'm talking even to those of you who were born outside of wedlock. Even you who were born as "illegitimate" (the term "illegitimate children" is so unfortunate. What sin did they do?) This applies even to you who are among the called who were born crippled, blind, deformed or without much in the way of talent.

***You are not here by accident, even if your parents thought so!***

I saw a bumper sticker I agree with: "God makes no junk". YOU are not a piece of junk – but being designed and perfected to be the child of the Highest. Let that sink in. Let that become real to you.

So let's see when you were designed. Get ready to be blown away.

**Ps 139:15-16 NIV** "My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, 16 ***your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.***" (NIV)

Is that mere poetry? Is David taking literary license here and exaggerating – or did God inspire those verses too? Now turn to Ephesians 1.

**Perhaps we should reframe the question from "when did God call me" to "when did God CREATE me, so I could fulfill His reason for calling me?"**

Get ready to see what Paul said. Some believe this matter of "predestination" has to do with how ***many*** God wants to call; that He has predestined a certain ***number***, not specific individuals. But how can that be, when you're part of a holy temple whose builder is God and who is planning each specific stone? Think about it! I personally believe and teach that God is much more precise, much more specific, than just having a number.

**Ephesians 1:4-6** "...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." Verses 11-12 repeat that we have been predestined.

I believe God not only *foreknew* YOU, but had to therefore bring together all your ancestors to get the right DNA, lineage and pedigree HE wanted in you. If He could track which animals were firstborn animals, when ALL the firstborn males and animals in Egypt died in the 10<sup>th</sup> plague, can He not work out your pedigree? ***Not to make you perfect – but to have you fit perfectly into His plans.*** So that makes it even MORE humbling and more awesome, to realize you've been on God's mind a long time, certainly long before God was on *your* mind!



**In Jeremiah 1:5**, God said to *Jeremiah* – who may have well had an ultra-special selection, *or* it may be generally true of us all. I'm not sure about that: ***“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”***

I believe that just as specifically God foreknew Jeremiah, He foreknew YOU. Just as God chose Abraham, Sarah, David, and Ruth for specific positions in His kingdom, He has also chosen YOU for just as specific spots in His holy temple! Listen carefully to the next passage we'll read:

**Romans 8:29-30** “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.”

Sounds very *specific*, doesn't it? Sounds to me like God is being very EXACT. Those HE predestined, *these* – He also called”. That doesn't sound like just predestining a certain number of people – but it sounds much more specific than that.

When you're building a temple, you know precisely what and where the pillars will be before the construction starts, as well as the door knobs, the tiling, the roofing, *every single piece has to be pre-planned*. God isn't figuring it out as He goes. God declares the end from the beginning (**Isa. 46:10**). Just because you and I aren't the priests, kings, or prophets in His family doesn't mean we were less important and so weren't planned!? Paul made that clear in **1 Corinthians 12** – that ALL parts of the body are important. Your hand is important. So is your arm pit! Get the point!? Even if I'm just an armpit, I'm important to a properly working Body! You love your eyes... but you also need your elbows.

Now remember: it is God the Highest, the Father, who specifically chose you, predestined you, by HIS foreknowledge of you from before you were born! He works after that choice is made, with Jesus Christ, but He is very involved in your calling, selection and growth. Your angels report to God the Father specifically about YOU. Jesus came to reveal Father, as our DEAR ABBA, an approachable God, and an *intimate* God who is our DEAR DADDY. Someone we can get close to. **The cross ripped open the veil that separated Father from mankind so WE can now pray, as Jesus taught us, to “OUR Father in heaven...”**. God the Supreme Being is the father of Jesus, and is – in the **SAME** way now – **OUR father also**.

**1 Peter 1:1-2** “To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, **2 elect according to the FOREKNOWLEDGE of God the Father**, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:”

**2 Thessalonians 2:13-14** “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.”

**Turn now to Romans 9**. Remember too, that though the principle of “**free moral agency**” – or the **FREEDOM TO CHOOSE** which way you will go -- is definitely in the Bible, there are some intriguing verses that show God's foreknowledge and fore-planning in very thought provoking ways:

**Romans 9:10-21** “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.” [BEFORE THEY WERE EVEN BORN! God's choice was



clearly based on His decision and not on anything they had done, for they had not yet *even been born!* Let that sink in. Paul says those very words...*read verse 11 again.* God chooses things and people to fit into His plan, not according to what *we* plan or do. And not because of our abilities or proclivities!]

14 What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? [He's asking: "Is God unfair?"] Certainly not! 15 For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion." 16 ***So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.*** 17 For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth." 18 *Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.* 19 You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?" 20 ***But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?"*** 21 ***Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?"***

***Isn't that thought provoking? Let that sink in!***

Even of **Judas Iscariot**, in **John 6:64** it says Jesus knew *from the beginning* who would betray Him. And **Mark 14:21** says it would have been good for that man had he never been born. That is repeated in **Matthew 26:24-25**, as well as **Mark 14:21**. ***What is that telling us?*** Is it saying Judas had committed the unpardonable sin? Because if not, upon repentance it still would have been better to have been born and be part of God's family. So that implies all kinds of things to me that I'll keep to myself for now.

And of **Pharaoh** in Egypt, there were times he was willing to let Israel go, but the scriptures say GOD hardened Pharaoh's heart! Where's the full free moral agency in that? Sometimes it says Pharaoh hardened his heart (**Ex 9:34-35**) and but right after that, God says HE hardened Pharaoh's heart (**Exodus 10:1**). ***If Paul couldn't explain this except to say we shouldn't question God, then I'm not going to try too hard either. It does appear to me that God is much, much more involved in our birth, our purpose, our calling, our selection, our ending – more than we realize or believe generally. God the Father is TOTALLY involved in His children and planning for His Household and kingdom.***

*Now let's build on all these verses and let them sink home personally. Be prepared to praise God as you realize more and more the extent of your individual calling!*

God the Father is building HIS house – the church is His House (**1 Timothy 3:15**). Jesus is the High Priest over that House (**Hebrews 10:21**). The Father selects the living stones of that temple and house – **1 Pet. 2:9; John 6:44**. When you're building a building like a temple, you don't just order so many blocks of stone and hope a certain number pan out. You order *specific* blocks, designed a specific way, from a specific quarry, for a specific purpose! And that is what God is doing for us. When that specific *block* is being sculpted, it may not be clear what the purpose or placement of that block will be to the average onlooker, but the Master Builder has the blue prints and knows exactly what he needs. He knows the tolerances He needs, the strength and shape and color and size He needs. ***Ever wonder why you look the way you look? GOD wanted you that way, to fulfill His purpose!*** You're your height, you are a man or woman, you are who and what you are – because that's what God wants. And it won't be clear



until all the Living stones come together at the resurrection, and you're told how you *fit* in this wonderful new living house or temple, that it will all become *clear*.

**1 Kings 6:7** “And the temple, when it was being built, was built *with stone finished at the quarry, so that no hammer or chisel or any iron tool was heard* in the temple while it was being built.”

*That verse is not just about the physical temple but is a prophecy for the true temple of God. WE are the stones. Old Testament scriptures are there for our learning. WE are in “the quarry” right now – called “the world”. That is an essential point to understand why things are happening to you. Think of a quarry. It's a dangerous, dirty, painful place where not a lot makes sense, frankly. It's noisy, dusty, ugly. It's hard to be impressed by any of the individual stones being fashioned, polished and sculpted. A lot of it seems confusing and out of place. A lot of it seems to have no purpose.*

**It won't seem to have a purpose or point until we come together as living stones and see the shape and design God had in mind!** It will be harmonious, peaceful and wonderful when we come together. When Solomon's temple came together, the stones had been perfected, chiseled on, polished, sculpted, and tested off site at the quarry, so when the stones all came together, there wasn't even heard the sound of any chisel or hammer! Isn't that incredible? We'll have to do a whole sermon someday on the temple and its meaning for us, but suffice that to make the point for now. When we all come together, and you see who was designed – perhaps 2,000 years ago – to be “the stone” next to you, or above you, or below you, it will all perfectly make sense. It will fit. And we'll sing praises to our Designer.

**So God the Father personally planned you, called you and has chosen you – if you respond faithfully to the end -- because you will fit perfectly into His plan and design when He is through with you. You'll fit the design He had for you from before Adam was created. That is something I have come to strongly believe.** It leaves a lot of questions about God, even His fairness, but as Paul said, some things we have to accept in faith.

.....

**\*\*Another reason God called you, and called you NOW, may be because He may actually have even greater plans for one or more of your descendants - - perhaps generations from now. He wants YOU too, but you may not be the main player here. Just a thought. I'll give several examples: David**

**Think about how God was preparing for David, and rewarded generations of descendants later, because of David. And think about how – besides David himself – God was also planning for the very Messiah Himself to come down through that line, plus many, many kings of Judah, in fact to this very day. Some of us feel that Queen Elizabeth II sits on David's throne at this time. That's for another day.**

**Now long before David was born, among David's ancestors is a very unlikely black Canaanite – Rahab the InnKeeper, and I believe the Hebrew and Greek also show she was a harlot. But for whatever reasons God had in mind, God the Father called her. She made the God of Israel her God, she cleaned up her life, is listed in the Hall of Fame of Faith in Hebrews 11, and became an ancestor of another man later named Boaz. And Boaz married another unlikely Gentile – RUTH the Moabitess. She clearly was a Moabite, not just a Jew who lived in Moab as**



some believe. So those of you who are Gentiles – take heart! God has not forgotten you at all! In fact *many* of you Gentiles are being called now, more so than Jews or Israelites; that's for sure! For that matter, whether or Gentile or Jew, it makes no difference today – but whom God is calling. We're all "spiritual Israel of God" today.

All these combined to eventually create **Jesse**, who eventually had an 8<sup>th</sup> son called **David**, who was a new beginning in the royal lines of Israel. (By the way, I'll come out some time with a message showing the **significance of certain Biblical numbers**. Eight refers to a new beginning.)

**Matthew 1:4-6** "Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. 5 **Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab**, Boaz begot Obed by **Ruth**, Obed begot **Jesse**, 6 and Jesse begot **David** the king."

God wanted David, and created and designed David long before even David's grandparents were alive! **PERHAPS, JUST PERHAPS: God may have called you also because of a righteous ancestor way back. I really believe that is possible. And you may have a special descendant coming someday, and God needed you in the DNA path for that person.**

So in spite of Rahab's harlotry, when she made a decision to heed God's call and become a believer in the Living God, that decision not only saved *her* life and her family's lives, but also set her on a course that brought blessings for generations to come. She eventually was even in the ancestral line of the very Messiah! God was able to use even HER, this sinful harlot, in His great plan. It's **how you end up that counts!** ***Be sure to hear my message I'll have later on that very topic. Read please Ezekiel 18:21-24; 33:18-20.***

**Ezekiel 33:18-20** "When the righteous turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, he shall die because of it. 19 **But when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is lawful and right, he shall live because of it.** 20 Yet you say, 'The way of the LORD is not fair.' O house of Israel, I will judge every one of you according to his own ways." So the concept of our own individual accountability is also VERY strong in the scriptures. I'm just also saying that sometimes we are receiving blessings because of grace God is bestowing on a righteous forebear.

When we answer God's invitation, we must think way beyond that immediate action, to start understanding that our obedience and right standing with God can cause God to be merciful to generations yet to come! Grandsons and granddaughters yet unborn! That should be so inspiring, motivating – and yet sobering.

**\* Exodus 20:4-6** "You shall not make for yourself a carved image -- any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the **iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations** of those who hate Me, 6 but **showing mercy to thousands** [I believe He means to "thousands of generations" in context], to those who love Me and keep My commandments."

This speaks of the fact when we sin, and cause sins to become family *habits or iniquities*, there can be impact for 3-4 generations to come after us. You'll see what I mean when you realize that many families have had generations of obesity, alcoholism, adultery, divorces, etc.



But God has called YOU, like RAHAB, to *break* that pattern of iniquity and to start a *new* pattern of obedience. But unlike DISobedience, that can have impacts for 3-4 generations, *obedience* can be impacting our line of descendants for a *thousand* generations!

**Deuteronomy 7:9** "Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy **for a *thousand generations* with those who love Him** and keep His commandments;"

In the same way, WE have inherited this rich land called America, with all its natural resources and wealth, not because of anything WE have done, but because of God's promises to Abraham! You can read of that in **Psalm 105:8-9** and many places in Genesis.

**Let me explain further:** We've already seen how God was working in David's life 400+ years before he was even born through the actions of people in the line of Judah, and then through Rahab.

Now David himself had favor with God, in spite of his murder of Uriah and adultery with Uriah's wife, so much so that God promised favor on David's descendants for thousands of years to come.

***So here's the point: YOU are going through what you are going through – perhaps for MUCH more than just what God wants in YOUR life. YOU may be going through all this also because God is setting up circumstances for one of your grandchildren or GREAT-GREAT-grandchildren. Have you ever thought of that? You married whom you married, you had whom you had as children – or even had no children, you lived where you have lived, perhaps to get things in position for 30 years from now, 100 or 200 years from now, and so on.***

And, God may be showing *you* kindnesses and blessings because of what one of your ancestors did in bringing blessings to his or her descendants, including you, for generations to come.

***Start thinking GENERATIONALLY. GET A BIGGER PICTURE of what God is doing with us, through us – that we have no clue about yet, but all we have are glimpses.***

Because of David's obedience and favor with God, even long after David had died, when his son Solomon was going off track, God told Solomon that He would be merciful to him ***because of his father David***. When **Hezekiah, 300 years later**, asked for help, God said the same thing. And Hezekiah was one of the few righteous kings! Let's read these, but get the point: **God is working with you *not just for you, but for what He is designing NOW in generations yet unborn to come from you!***

Solomon at first was on the right track. He had asked for wisdom. He built the temple. God was with him in the early years. But by **1 Kings 11**, as he got older and made alliances through marrying the daughters of all the neighboring countries, instead of trusting in God, those wives turned his heart away from the true God. And notice what God says.

**1 Kings 11:6-13** "Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as did his father David. 7 Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of



Ammon. 8 And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

9 **So the LORD became angry with Solomon**, because his **heart** had turned from the LORD God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, 10 and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the LORD had commanded. 11 **Therefore the LORD said to Solomon**, "Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. 12 Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, **for the sake of your father David**; I will tear it out of the hand of your son. 13 However I will not tear away the whole kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son **for the sake of My servant David**, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen."

Now *about 300 years (plus or minus) after David's death* – in the life of Hezekiah, God delivered Hezekiah from Sennacharib, because – in God's words – **"for my servant David's sake"** (2 Kings 19:34).

*How many times has God been merciful to YOU, and to ME, perhaps, because of the obedience and blessing therefore of one of our ancestors? How many of your descendants can be cursed – or blessed – because of what we are doing right now? THINK FAR BEYOND the immediate action. Don't forget Esau's bowl of lentils. One action. Universal consequences.*

I realize there is also a passage in **Jeremiah 31:29-30; and Ezek 33:18-19** which show the main blessing and cursing on our lives will be from what WE *individually* do, not what our ancestors did, but you can't get around the fact that we are blessed in America because of God's promises to **Abraham**. You can't get around the fact that there is a throne in London on which sits one of David's descendants – Queen Elizabeth II – because of promises to David, in spite of all the sins of that particular royal line today over there!

Yes, we reap what we sow, but we can't ignore the fact that we are *also* reaping – for good or bad – what has been sown long ago by ancestors, for good and bad.

**Even if you have no children**, God is **STILL** working in you now for ways you can **IMPACT** other's lives now and for generations yet unborn. The actions we do today – for good and bad – impact not only our lives, and our families' lives, but have a *ripple effect* for good and bad in the lives of hundreds of others.

Remember the movie **"It's a Wonderful Life"** with Jimmy Stewart? In the movie, they show what would have happened to his little town if he had died and never lived. They show the incredible ripple effect of his life. He had no idea. In the same way, you probably have *no idea* what kind of ripple effect your life, your words, your actions, are causing in the lives of so many now, and *will have* in the lives of generations to come!

**So why did God call you? And when did God start on His plans for you? I want you to get this: LONG BEFORE you were even born, He knew you, planned for you, wanted you, and caused you.** Though God the Father generally lets Jesus Christ, the Word, be in the forefront of everything He is doing for now, in *this* particular case, when someone is to be part of the House of God, then God does not relegate that to anyone else. He- God the Father – personally gets involved, personally planned and chose you and then brought you to Jesus Christ, and then Jesus taught us how to pray directly to the Father. All who have accepted Jesus as



Savior can now go directly to Father, in Jesus' name and by His authority. His father is now *our* father. His God is now our God (**John 20:17**).

Don't let Satan rob of you of the wonders of how God wants you, you personally. God then assigns Jesus to work with each of us, so that in the end, we are covered by His righteousness and can be presented without stain, without wrinkle, without spot or any such thing, but faultless before His holy throne, ready to stand before His Majesty, our Father, and sing the new song of the redeemed in private concert for God, for Jesus, for the 24 elders and the cherubs around the throne. God speed that day.

And God was working in the lives of your parents and grandparents and great grandparents long before you were even a dream in your parents' hearts. And God is working in YOU, to bring about what He wants in your descendants and in the lives of those you are touching now, perhaps even in ways you have no clue about!

I think that's a good place to end this part 1. *Next time, we'll pick up with even more specific reasons why God chose YOU – YOU specifically.* You won't want to miss it. And tell others about this message, or even the web site, if you know others need to hear the content of this and the next message. If you're just reading these as downloaded transcripts, I pray you'll try the audio as well some times. I get very excited about these concepts and you may miss a lot of that by just reading the transcripts.

**TODAY'S MAIN POINTS WERE these – building the foundation for the next sermon:**

- God chose the weak to shame the strong and the wise and to bring Him glory
- There were indeed some nobles and mighty among those God called
- God the Father Himself does the choosing. He gets *very* involved in you.
- God the Father planned and selected *you* long before you were born
- You were called when you were called for God's purpose
- Part of that purpose could be revealed in what God does with your descendants.

This is Philip Shields, your brother, saying keep your relationship strong with God and with all people, till Jesus comes! God be with you. ☺



