

Out of this World!

Our Divine Calling



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God has not been haphazardly working His way through the ages. From the beginning He has had a very definite plan, and He is masterfully working it to fulfill His own predetermined purpose.

What does God's Word say about us as believers regarding our calling?

Our calling was *"from the beginning"*:

God has from the beginning chosen you to salvation (II Thessalonians 2:13).

Our calling was *"before the disruption of the world"*:

He has chosen us in Him before the disruption of the world (Ephesians 1:4).

Our calling was a part of *"the counsel of God's Own will"*:

Being predestinated according to the purpose of Him Who works all things after the counsel of His Own will (Ephesians 1:11).

It is important to understand something about our calling. God currently seeks neither to reveal Himself nor His plan to the masses. If it was His purpose, He would have accomplished it long ago. The fact is that He has taken elaborate steps to assure that He and His plan are sufficiently hidden from the majority of mankind.

*You have **hid** these things from the wise and prudent, and have revealed them unto babes (Matthew 11:25).*

Instead of currently revealing Himself to the world at large, God chooses who He wants to receive His revelation *at this time*.

*All men cannot receive this saying, save **they to whom it is given** (Matthew 19:11).*

God's plan on the stage of human history is to reveal Himself initially to a few – the called, the elect. He draws those whom He has *chosen*, whether in His past dealings with Israel, or His present dealings with the members of the Body of Christ.

God's calling has always been to a few. He told Israel that He neither set His love on them nor choose them because they were more in number than any people, but because they were "*the fewest of all people*" (Deuteronomy 7:7).

The reason that God has called only a few during the course of human history is that He is calling out a *small* company of servants for His name. Those few whom He calls are being prepared to rule with Him, *servicing* the rest of creation.

A survey through the Scripture's use of the word "*chosen*" will reveal that God's calling is one of *service*:

*God has **chosen him out** ... to stand **to minister** in the name of the LORD (Deuteronomy 18:5).*

*Them ... God has **chosen to minister** unto Him (Deuteronomy 21:5).*

*Them has the LORD **chosen** ... **to minister** unto Him (I Chronicles 15:2).*

*He has **chosen Judah to be the ruler** (I Chronicles 28:4).*

*He has **chosen Solomon** ... **to sit upon the throne** of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel (I Chronicles 28:5).*

*The LORD has **chosen you to stand before Him, to serve Him, and that you should minister unto Him** (II Chronicles 29:11).*

*My **servant** whom I have **chosen**: that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He (Isaiah 43:10).*

*Behold My **servant**, Whom I have **chosen** ... (Matthew 12:18).*

*I have **chosen** you, and **ordained** you, that you should **go and bring forth fruit**, and that your fruit should remain (John 15:16).*

*He is a **chosen** vessel unto Me, **to bear My name** (Acts 9:15).*

Notice Isaiah 43:10 again, for it is of particular significance as to one's calling in relationship to God Himself:

*My servant whom I have **chosen**: that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He (Isaiah 43:10).*

God draws His *chosen* into personal relationship with Himself. He has chosen us for the purpose of *knowing* Him, *believing* Him, and *understanding* Him. *This* is our calling.

The religious are satisfied to learn *about* Him, the chosen are given the heart actually to *know Him*. Paul wrote,

*That I may **know Him**, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death* (Philippians 3:10).

Religious systems blind and bind men, sidetracking them by endless busy-work – meetings, group activities, projects and mass instruction, all resulting in a secondhand “knowledge” and “faith” concerning “God.”

Our particular culture’s religious masses are “Christian”; but if they lived in another culture, they would undoubtedly have adapted the context of its religious persuasion (*e.g.* Islam, Buddhism, etc.).

God is now tutoring “*The Called*” for service in the “*heavenly places*” – the Celestials.

CELESTIAL CALLING

Ours is a *high calling*.

The high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14).

God’s calling above in Christ Jesus (CV).

God’s calling for members of Christ’s Body is the Heavens. The clear distinction between Heaven and Earth is made immediately in the Scriptures.

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth (Genesis 1:1).

The Scriptures then proceed with the theme of the earth.

And the earth ... (:2)

It is not until we get to the writings of Paul in Scripture that the secret purposes related to the Heavens are revealed.

CELESTIAL ALLOTMENT

Ours is a heavenly allotment.

Israel received an earthly allotment. When God gave them the land of promise, it was divided into lots according to their tribes. So it is with the Body of Christ that our sphere of promise is the celestials, and our portion is there.

*the eyes of your heart having been enlightened, for you to perceive what is the expectation of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of the enjoyment of His **allotment** among the saints* (Ephesians 1:18).

*that, being justified in that One’s grace, we may be becoming enjoyers, in expectation, of the **al-**
lotment of life eonian* (Titus 3:7).

One day we will be awakened and/or taken to our celestial occupation. Just as with Israel's allotment, ours is currently occupied by enemy forces.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12).

For it is not ours to wrestle with blood and flesh, but with the sovereignties, with the authorities, with the world-mights of this darkness, with the spiritual forces of wickedness among the celestials (CV).

CELESTIAL TRAINING

Paul is the supreme celestial commander of this divine operation,¹ and we are his forces for the occupation and recovery of the celestials. We are currently in boot camp and officer's training. We suffer hardships now; we will reign then.

*Yet if children, enjoyers also of an **allotment**, enjoyers, indeed, of an **allotment** from God, yet joint enjoyers of Christ's **allotment**, if so be that we are suffering together, that we should be glorified together also (Romans 8:17).*

*Being aware that from the Lord you will be getting the compensation of the enjoyment of an **allotment**: for the Lord Christ are you slaving (Colossians 3:24).*

*At the same time giving thanks to the Father, Who makes you competent for a part of the **allotment** of the saints (Colossians 1:12).*

Through suffering God is making us competent to reign and rule. He will compensate us with the "enjoyment" of a celestial allotment. Rest assured: your training and preparation will not be a waste!

1. By way of illustration, General Douglas MacArthur was the Supreme Commander of Allied Powers and led the occupation of the Philippines. So we follow Paul, who on the behalf of our Commander in Chief – the Lord Jesus Christ, shall lead the way for the occupation of the celestials; just as David, as King of Israel, shall lead the way Israel's for future occupation of earth.

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