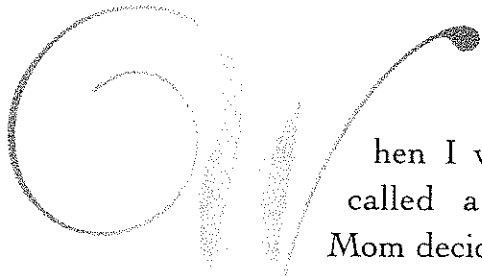




CHOSEN

“YOU ARE MY SERVANT,
I HAVE CHOSEN YOU AND HAVE NOT CAST YOU AWAY.”

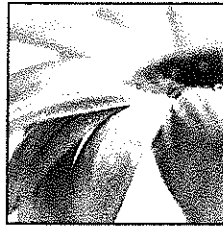
Isaiah 41:9 NKJV



When I was what is now called a “tweener,” my Mom decided it was time to re-do my bedroom. Now I had been in this room since I was just two years old, and I loved it. The carpet was deep purple shag and the wallpaper was scattered with big pink daisies and purple tulips. It was unique. It was perfect. The re-do started with carpet—a sculpted mauve. But best of all was the fact that I was going to get to choose my own wallpaper. I was thrilled. We brought home free snippets of different papers. We borrowed oversized sample books. We held up this piece and that piece against the wall to see how it would look. Every night, visions of cabbage roses and sweeping lilacs and

CLEARING + THE + COBWEBS

Remember the days
when recess meant



choosing up
sides for a game
of kickball?

When were you
usually chosen

by one of the team
captains—right away,
somewhere in the
middle, or at the very
end?

*As God's children, our
lives unfold daily like
pages in a book. Each
circumstance is a different
chapter. Each page is a
new opportunity to live out
God's plan for us.*

Thelma Wells

violets and pansies danced through my head. But then I came home from school one day to find double rolls of wallpaper piled on the kitchen table. Mom had gotten tired of waiting for me to decide, and had found a bargain. The paper was white moiré sprigged with clusters of what were meant to be wildflowers but looked a whole lot like weeds to me. I was horrified. I hated it. It went up anyhow. It never occurred to me to accept my mother's choice with grace or

gratefulness. I was enormously disappointed because I had wanted to choose for myself.

Being able to choose for ourselves is important to us. But even more vital is being chosen.

1. Being loved, along with everyone else, is nice, isn't it? Group hug! But you know, it's even better to realize that God knows us each by name, and that He chose us because He wanted us for His own. What did the psalmist say in Psalm 65:4?

2. God chose Israel for His own people. He made His covenant with them and gave them His commandments. In return, He promised to bless them. Fill in the blanks of these two verses about God's choosing:

Deuteronomy 7:7 — "The LORD did not _____ His _____ on you nor _____ you because you were more in _____"

than any other people, for you were the _____ of all peoples” (NKJV).

Deuteronomy 10:15—“The LORD _____ only in your fathers, to _____ them; and He _____ their _____ after them, you _____ all peoples” (NKJV).

3. God was choosy. He chose times and places. He chose men and women—servants and leaders, patriarchs and prophets. Match up these chosen ones with the verses in which they appear.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| ___ 2 Samuel 6:21 | a. God chose Jerusalem for His city. |
| ___ 1 Kings 11:34 | b. God chose Abram and gave him a new name. |
| ___ 1 Kings 11:36 | c. God chose David, taking him out of the sheepfolds. |
| ___ 2 Chronicles 7:16 | d. God chose David because he kept His commands. |
| ___ Nehemiah 9:7 | e. God chose Moses and Aaron. |
| ___ Psalm 78:70 | f. “The LORD chose me to be ruler over His people.” |
| ___ Psalm 105:26 | g. Jesus chose twelve from the disciples to be apostles. |
| ___ Psalm 132:13 | h. The LORD has chosen Israel for His special treasure. |
| ___ Psalm 135:4 | i. The LORD has chosen Zion for His dwelling place. |
| ___ Luke 6:13 | j. God chose the temple and sanctified it. |

4. What blessing is proclaimed in Psalm 33:12?

Most of us have probably read *Charlotte's Web* by E. B. White, a literary staple of elementary education. In this story, a young girl named Fern rescues the runt from a litter of piglets and makes him her special pet. She names him Wilbur, and showers him with all the love a young girl can show. Wilbur flourishes under her attentions, and by the end of the book everyone agrees that he is "Some Pig."

Women have a soft place for runts. Their neediness tugs at our hearts, and brings out our God-given gifts of mercy, compassion, and lovingkindness. So we don't wonder why God chose "the least of all people" to be His own. He wanted them, and they needed Him. And they flourished because of the love that was showered down on them.

5. Now you're thinking, "Sure. That's great if you're Jewish, but none of those promises apply to me." Well, hold your horses and take a look at Ephesians 1:4. When did God choose you?



6. Who are you, according to 1 Peter 2:9, and whose praises do you sing?

7. Peter's description of God's people is quite majestic. Do you look at those words and say, "Who me?" You might look at some other sister in the Lord and say, "She's all that!" But we're too weak, too fallible to deserve such words. Nonsense! What does Paul remind us in 1 Corinthians 1:27?

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

1 Corinthians 1:27 NKJV

*I am not an afterthought.
All God's love-inspired
preplanning for each of us
is not haphazard or
impersonal. His timing
may throw me or His
sovereign plan may grieve
me, but I am always
sheltered in His
sovereign hand.*

Marilyn Meberg

8. God doesn't just choose us, He chooses us for a purpose.

- How does God describe Saul in Acts 9:15?

- What was Saul chosen for, according to Acts 22:14?

9. At the very end, those of us who are with Jesus are described as what, according to Revelation 17:14?

DIGGING DEEPER

There are many, many more verses in the Bible about God's chosen people. Let's focus in on some of the New Testament verses. Each contains another tidbit of information about God's choosing and those whom He chooses. How do they broaden your understanding of what it means to be chosen?

- Matthew 22:14
- 1 Corinthians 1:28
- 2 Thessalonians 2:13
- John 15:16
- John 15:19
- James 2:5

PONDER & PRAY

As you go through the coming days, ponder over the importance of choice. We women like to have choices. Just look at how many shades of lipstick there are in the cosmetics aisle. And why else would ice cream come in at least 31 flavors? We like to look over our options and do our own choosing. Lobbyists even insist that choice is a right. God chose us, to love and to save. What choices can we make, do we make, should we make? Pray for a heart eager to respond to God's love for us and willing to choose the things that would please our loving Father.

