God's Election Process

The apostle Paul wrote, "Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect?" (Romans 8:33). Christians are identified throughout the New Testament as "God's elect" (see also Colossians 3:12; Titus 1:1; 1 Peter 2:9). While man's election process involves popular vote and personal preference God elects people based upon their approach to spirituality. God's election process is not based upon race, gender, or popularity but rather obedience. Let us examine the Bible subject of "election" together.

The book of Romans gives us the founding principles of God's election process. Paul uses Jacob and Esau as an example that illustrates God's election process (Romans 9:9ff). God loved Jacob but he hated Esau. Jacob was a man of spiritual interest and obedience whereas Esau could care less about the things of God (see Genesis 25:34; Hebrews 12:16-17). Paul's objective at Romans 9 is to prove that those who receive God's promise to be forgiven of sins committed do so because they hear the call of the gospel and obey it. Please read all of Romans chapter 9 and note the use of the words, "promise" and "call" as they relate to the word "election."

The apostle Paul also looks to the example of Elijah and the seven thousand who had not bowed the knee to Baal. Paul writes, "Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace" (Romans 11:5). To understand the election process of God we must understand the Old Testament example that Paul used.

God had told Elijah, at 1 Kings 19:15ff, that Jehu was to be anointed as king of Judah, Hazael as king of Syria, and Elisha was to be the next prophet. During the days of Ahab, king of Israel, the
people of God had come to be so wicked that Elijah believed he was the only one left in faithful obedience to the Lord (see 1 Kings 16:29ff; 19:10). God shows Elijah that he is not the only one left. The ungodly; however, were not to be forgotten. Jehovah would cut off the house of Ahab and all the wicked of Israel by his sovereign use of Jehu, Hazael, and Elisha.

When one follows out the zeal of Jehu we find that this man, according to God's will, exterminates the house of Ahab and all who pertained unto him because of their idolatry and sinful ways (see 2 Kings 9-10). Jehu kills the kings of both Israel and Judah for their wicked leadership (2 Kings 9:21ff). Jehu also killed Jezebel by trampling her underneath his horses (2 Kings 9:30ff). With great zeal Jehu also slays all the worshippers, priests, and prophets of Baal in Israel (see 2 Kings 10:28).

Those who escaped the sword of Jehu and Elisha faced Hazael, king of Syria (see 2 Kings 2 Kings 8:10ff; 10:32). Jehovah utterly annihilates the wicked out of Israel just as he had prophesied he would do to Elijah fifteen years previously (1 Kings 19:15ff). The apostle Paul's use of these events, in relationship to the subject of God's election, illustrates the process. God chooses those to be identified as saints who will give heed to his call and obey with all their hearts. All else are subject to his eternal wrath.

The apostle Peter wrote, "Wherefore, brethren, give the more diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never stumble: for thus shall be richly supplied unto you the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:10-11). The "things" that Peter's audience were to be involved in were the "Christian graces" mentioned at 2 Peter 1:5-7. The objective of every right thinking person is that they purpose within their heart to obtain unto a divine nature. Young Literal Translation of 2 Peter 1:4 reads, "Through which to us the most great and precious promises have been given, that through these ye may become partakers of a divine nature, having escaped from the corruption in the world in desires."

Who are the elect of God? Simple! They are those who purpose in their heart to live in obedience to God's divine will. All else will be left out of God's eternal promises and face his fierce wrath.

John C. Robertson
The Church in Prophecy
Matthew 6:9-13

Introduction:
The church of Christ is comprised of baptized believers known as citizens in the kingdom of God (Acts 2:37-42; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; 1 Thessalonians 2:12). The people in God's kingdom are bought with the blood of Jesus Christ (Acts 20:28; Revelation 5:9-10). The kingdom of God / church was foretold of coming into existence hundreds of years before it actually was established. This lesson shall examine the church in prophecy and its fulfillment.

I. The Kingdom of God / Church in Prophecy:
   1. A savior was to reign upon the throne of David (2 Samuel 7:12-17).
   2. This savior would represent a government of righteousness (Isaiah 9:6-7).

II. When did the Scriptures tell of this Kingdom coming into Existence?
   A. The "latter days" (Isaiah 2:1-3; Daniel 2:28).
   B. The Roman Empire would be the ruling world Empire at that time (Daniel 2:43-45; 11:38-40).
   C. A time when the new law would go forth from Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:2ff; Luke 24:46-49).
   D. When a display of power was manifest (Mark 9:1; Luke 24:49).

III. Has the kingdom of God / Church been Established?
   A. During the days of Jesus the Roman Empire was in Power (Luke 3:1-2; Acts 18:1-2).
   B. Jesus preached the nearness of the kingdom (Matthew 4:17).
   C. The day of Pentecost was identified as "the latter days" (Acts 2:16-17; 3:24)
   E. Church / kingdom in existence at Acts 5:11

Conclusion:
The kingdom of God is the church (1 Thessalonians 1:12; Revelation 5:9-10). Those who have baptized for the forgiveness of their sins have been added to the kingdom of God / church (Acts 2:38-42). God's kingdom has been established. This church of people are organized locally and have been commanded of God to perform works. To achieve the work of the church God has equiped it with various offices of organization. We shall discuss the work, organization, and worship of the church in the coming weeks. Have you been added to the Lords church?