

CALLED, CHOSEN AND FAITHFUL

“...and those who are with Him are the **called** and **chosen** and **faithful**”; Rev. 17:14

Called - Strong's Greek word #2822: “invited; appointed; called to be a saint”

Chosen - Strong's Greek words #1586 and #1588: “to select; to make a choice; favorite; elect”

Faithful - Strong's Greek word #4103: “trustworthy; to rely on; faithfully true”

A. Those Who Are Called:

1. The Jews were the first group to be called, invited to the Marriage Feast. Servants were later commanded to call the Gentiles; Matt. 22:2-14
2. In an external sense, the “call” (a summons, the invitation of God) goes to all people.
3. When the “call” is heard and received in an internal sense, it turns the sinner from his sin to Jesus, and the Gospel becomes the power of God unto salvation; Romans 1:16; 8:28-30
4. All things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose; Rom. 8:28. Those who are called to be saints are sanctified in Christ Jesus; 1 Cor. 1:2.
5. The “called” are not always saved; many are called, but few are chosen; Matt. 20:16; 22:14

B. Those Who Are Chosen:

1. The nation of Israel was initially chosen by God to reveal Himself to the world; Deut. 14:2. The “Israel of God” under the New Covenant includes all the redeemed; Gal. 6:16; Rom. 9:6-13
2. The chosen consist of the “people of God”, those by “natural birth” (Hebrews, the Jews) and the “children of God”, those by “second birth” (born again Jews and Gentiles); Galatians 3:28
3. Aaron and his descendants were chosen to perform priestly duties in the O. T.; Ex. 29:2
4. There is a royal priesthood, a chosen generation in the New Testament; 1 Peter 2:9
5. God has chosen the “foolish” (in the eyes of the world), the “weak” and the “despised”; 1 Cor. 1:27-18. We have not chosen Him, but rather, He has chosen us; John 15:16; Eph. 1:4

C. Among The Called And The Chosen There Are Degrees Of Faithfulness:

1. Some servants are faithful initially, but later become disobedient; 1 Sam. 28:16-18; 1 Kings 11:1-12; 13:1-24. Some will depart from the faith into apostasy; 1 Tim. 4:1; Hebrews 6:4-6
2. Obedient king Josiah served the Lord with all his heart, soul and might; 2 Kings 22:2; 23:25
3. Within the priesthood, some fall into idolatry and compromise; Lev. 10:1-3; 1 Sam. 2:12; 4:11, but some remain obedient to the Lord. Zadok was a faithful priest; Ezek. 40:46; 44:15-24
4. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were faithful to God; they would not bow to the image, serve other gods or participate in false worship; Daniel 3:1-18; 4:9; 6:1-13; John 4:20-24
5. A “certain disciple” named Ananias, was faithful to obey the Lord during a time of great persecution in the early Church. He ministered to Paul, a “chosen vessel”; Acts 9:10-18

D. Servants Are Given Opportunities To Prove Their Faithfulness To God:

1. He who has been faithful in “least” will also be faithful in “much”; Luke 16:10
2. Faithful men who fear God are appointed to be rulers; Nehemiah 7:1-2; Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21
3. The faithful, wise servant gives the Lord's household food at the proper time; Matt. 24:45-46
4. We are told to endure tribulation and to be faithful unto death; Revelation 2:10
5. The Lord's servants will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ; Romans 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10. Each is rewarded according to his faithfulness, according to what he has done; Rev. 22:12

E. Faithful Servants Learn Obedience Through Suffering:

1. Prisoners of the Lord are placed in an environment of confinement, difficulty and solitude; they learn to accept doing their Master's will; Gen. 40:15; Job 13:15; Eph. 4:1
2. Faithful servants know they must be proven, disciplined and "made weak" in their own strength, prior to becoming strong in God's strength; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Hebrews 11:34
3. Faithful servants must endure hardship, separation and persecution; they know that these are purifying factors to teach them obedience and perseverance; Acts 5:40-41; Heb. 5:8; James 1:2
4. The faithful must be "emptied of self", through the power of the Cross, so that the will of God can fully operate. The emptying of self makes room for the fullness of God; Eph. 3:19; 4:13
5. Tribulation and testing is designed to turn them from their carnal ways and appetites, to embracing the will of God. Times of crisis and brokenness brings God's servants to the place of "full surrender", through which our FAITHFUL Heavenly Father reveals Himself; Job 1:21-22; 2:1-10; 42:5. He first reveals Himself TO US, then He reveals Himself THROUGH US.

F. God's Faithful Servants Have The Mind Of Christ:

1. They meditate in His Word; Joshua 1:8 and they seek to know His ways; Ps. 27:11; 103:7
2. They have the power of a sound mind; 2 Timothy 1:7, because they are being transformed by the renewing of their minds; Romans 12:2; Philippians 2:5
3. The wise and the faithful are acquiring "oil" for their lamps; Matt. 25:4. They are watching, immersed in the Word, being prepared and illuminated by the Spirit, which allows them to discern with a heavenly mindset, an "elevated perspective"; Eph. 1:17-23; 2:6; Col. 3:1-2
4. Their thinking, their speech and their actions point to the fact that they have been with Jesus; Matthew 26:73; Acts 4:13; Galatians 1:11-12
5. Faithful servants discern the signs of the times; Matt. 16:2-3 (that in the midst of lawlessness, increasing violence, rebellion, and perversion, in the climate of moral and religious apostasy, in a bankrupt society, full of government corruption, that scripture is being fulfilled); Matt. 26:56; Luke 21:22. The wicked are being "set up" for a fall; Psalm 73; Job 21:30; Rev. 17:17

G. God Reveals Mysteries To His Faithful Servants:

1. Faithful servants are fed the "milk" of the Word and then progress to "meat"; 1 Cor. 3:2. Understanding essential, elementary doctrine precedes our ability to digest deeper spiritual truth; Heb. 5:12-14. The ability to understand mysteries is a barometer of faithfulness; Daniel 12:3, 10.
2. Spiritual revelation and mysteries are like "hidden treasure", and a scribe brings forth out of his treasure "things old and new"; Matthew 13:52; 23:3
3. A "mystery" is that which is hidden, but to be revealed; "apocalypse" means "that which is unveiled". Faithful believers will come to understand the mysteries of the Kingdom; Matt. 13:11; 1 Corinthians 2:7; 4:1-2
4. Mysteries are revealed to us as we are able to receive them; Mark 4:24, 33-34; John 16:12
5. There is a progressive unveiling of mysteries; these include the mystery of the faith; 1 Tim. 3:9; the mystery of the Gospel; Eph. 6:19; the mystery of Christ; Rom. 16:25; Eph. 3:4; the mystery of iniquity, lawlessness; 2 Thess. 2:7; the mystery of Israel and the Church; Rom. 11:25; the mystery of the Harpazo (Rapture); 1 Cor. 15:51; the mystery of the seven stars and seven golden candlesticks; Rev. 1:20

