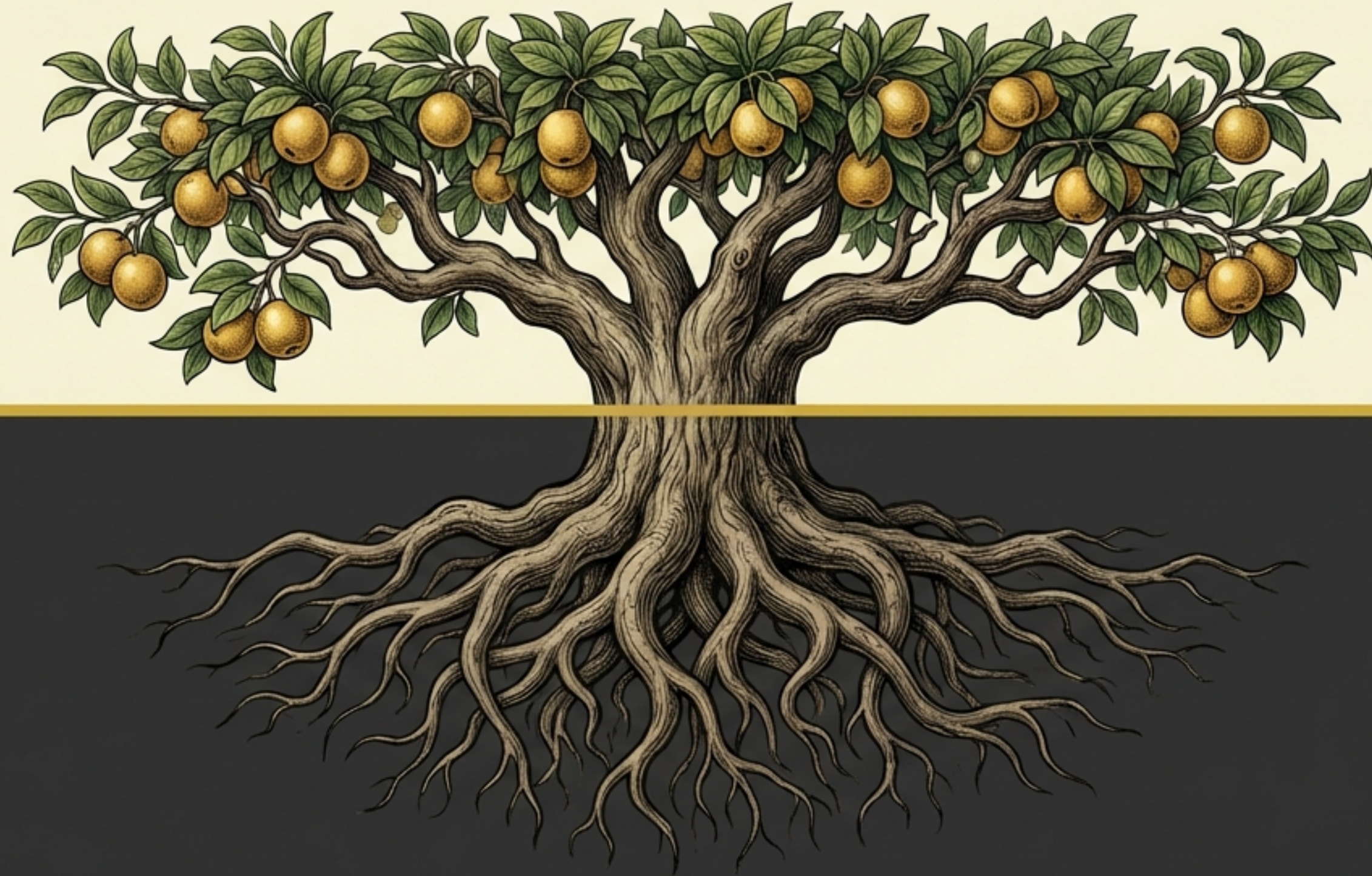


# The Observable Fruit and the Unseen Root



Uncovering the Biblical Doctrine of Election in 1 Thessalonians



# A Faith Heard Throughout the World



The Apostle Paul's letter to the church in **Thessalonica** begins not with doctrine, but with **thanksgiving**. He saw in them a powerful and living faith that became an example to all believers in the region.

“We give thanks to God always for you all... Remembering without ceasing your **work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ.” — 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3



# How Could Paul Be So Certain?

Paul's confidence in the Thessalonians' faith wasn't just pastoral encouragement. He attributed their spiritual vitality to a definitive, divine action that preceded their belief. He didn't just see the fruit; he knew the root.

“knowing, beloved brethren,  
**your election by God.**”

— 1 Thessalonians 1:4



# The Principle of Evidence



Paul had no special access to heavenly records. His conviction was based on the clear evidence he saw. The doctrine of election, while hidden in the eternal counsel of God, becomes visible in the transformed lives of believers. The fruit of a person's life is the only tangible evidence of their election.

“The only evidence we have that people are the elect of God **is the fruit that they bear in their lives.**” – Sermon by John Grevious

“Therefore, **by their fruits you will know them.**” – Matthew 7:20



# A Doctrine Rooted in Scripture, Not Systems

The doctrine of divine election is often controversial and wrongly dismissed as a niche idea from a specific theologian.

However, the concept is not an invention of Augustine or Calvin. It is a consistent teat the Old and New Testaments, taught by the prophets, the apostles, and Jesus Christ himself.

Our understanding must be based on the authority of the Word of God.

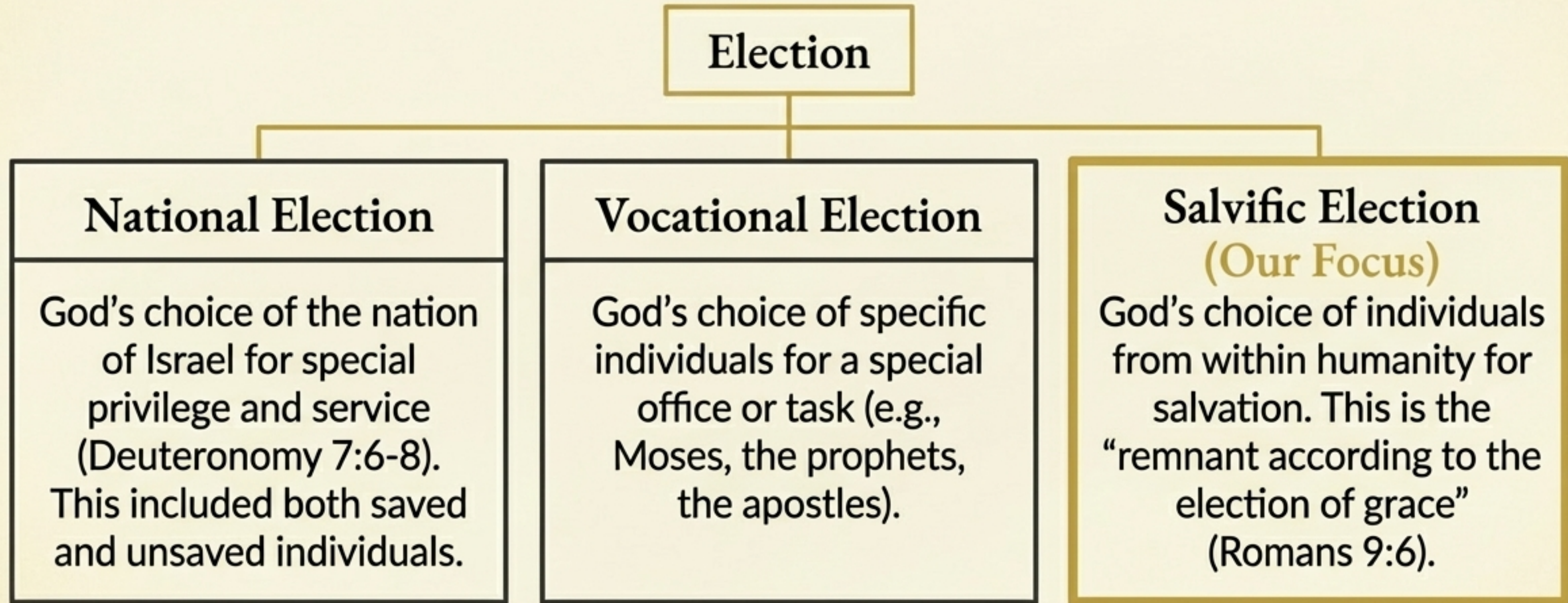


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“Not only did Calvin teach it... but **Jesus taught this doctrine**. The apostles taught this doctrine. The Old Testament teaches this doctrine... It’s just a **fact of Holy Scripture**.” – Sermon by John Grevious



# Understanding the Scope of Election





# What is Divine Election unto Salvation?

In its most specific sense, election unto salvation is God's foundational purpose in saving a people for Himself through Jesus Christ.

**E**lection is that eternal act of God, whereby He in His sovereign good pleasure and account of no unforeseen merit in them, chooses a certain number of men and women to be the recipients of special grace and salvation.

**E**lection is God's eternal purpose to save some of the human race in and by Jesus Christ.



# The Unshakable Nature of God's Choice



## Unconditional

Election is not based on anything in us, such as foreseen faith or good works. It rests entirely on God's sovereign purpose. The classic example is Jacob and Esau.

*"...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..."*  
— Romans 9:11-13



## Unchangeable

Because election is God's eternal decree, nothing can alter it. God's purpose guarantees the final salvation of all His elect.

*"Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies."*  
— Romans 8:33



# A Purpose Formed and Fulfilled by God



## Irresistible

This does not mean God forces sinners against their will. Rather, the Holy Spirit supernaturally changes their will, giving them a new heart and a new desire for God.

*"Your people will be made willing in the day of Your power."*  
— Psalm 110:3



## Eternal

God's choice was not an afterthought. It was made in Christ before the world was created, connecting salvation directly to the gospel from eternity past.

*"...just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world..."*  
— Ephesians 1:4



# The Purpose of Election: A Call to Holiness



Election is not a justification for complacency ('once saved, always saved, no matter how I live'). It is the very foundation for a transformed life. God chooses His people *for* a purpose: that they would be consecrated to Him and reflect His character.

*"...that we should be **holy and without blame** before Him in love."*

*— Ephesians 1:4*

*"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."*

*— Ephesians 2:10*



# The Ultimate Aim: The Glory of God



While election secures our salvation and calls us to holiness, its highest and ultimate purpose is the glory of God himself. He does everything for His own glory, and the display of His sovereign grace in salvation is its ultimate expression.

“...to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.”  
— based on Ephesians 1:6



# A Source of Humility and Gratitude

An understanding of unconditional election should destroy all human pride. If God's choice is not based on our merit, we have nothing to boast about. It leaves us with two overwhelming responses:

The Question of Wonder

“Why in the world did you come down here and pick me?”

The Statement of Worship

“Thank you. Because He did not have to do it.”





# A Foundation for Comfort and Assurance

This doctrine is a deep source of comfort. God's unchangeable purpose guarantees that He will preserve His people to the very end. This truth provides the confidence to persevere through life's trials.

“being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” — **Philippians 1:6**

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“You may be beat up and bloody, but you will make it to the end.”



“[Jesus] said to them, ‘The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.’”

— Luke 10:2

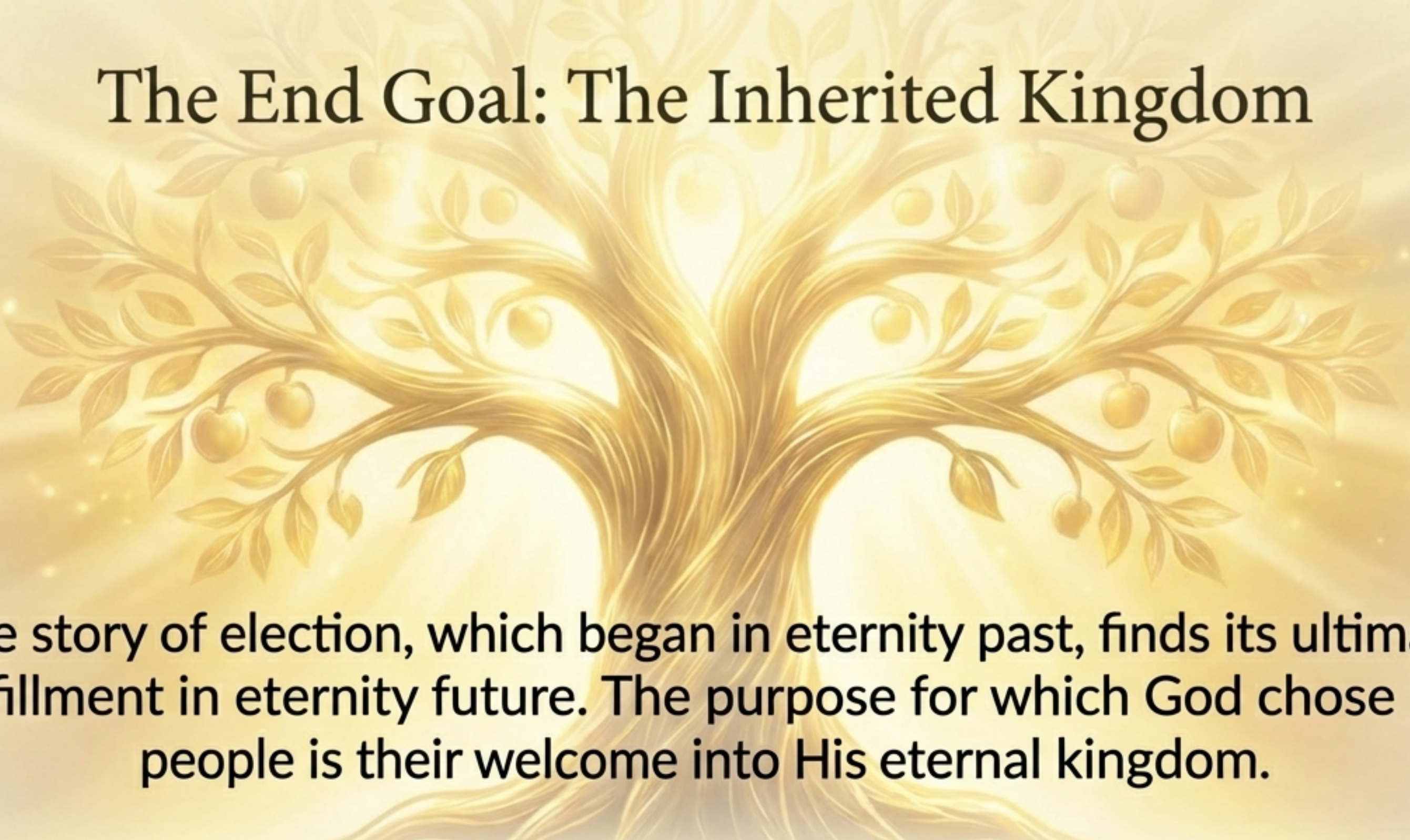
## Our Mission: To Gather the Harvest

Knowing about election doesn't hinder evangelism; it fuels it with confidence. Our message is not the doctrine of election, but the call to ‘repent and believe the gospel.’ We go out into the world to preach this message, knowing the harvest is is great because God's elect are “planted there” and will respond when they hear the call.





# The End Goal: The Inherited Kingdom



The story of election, which began in eternity past, finds its ultimate fulfillment in eternity future. The purpose for which God chose His people is their welcome into His eternal kingdom.

“Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, **inherit the kingdom** prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’ — **Matthew 25:34**”