

A Word Study by Pastor Melissa Scott, Ph.D.

Analysis of “elect” or “chosen” in 1 Peter

The Greek words ἐκλεκτοῖς and ἐκλεκτὸν (Strong’s G1588) meaning “to select” or “to choose,” from
ek-lek-tois *ek-lek-ton*

the word ἐκλέγομαι (Strong’s G1586) meaning “to make a choice, to choose with words,”
ek-leg'-om-ahee

which is from *ek* meaning “origin, out from,” plus *lego* meaning “word” or “speech.”

The word λόγος (*logos*) also comes from *lego*, which means

- (1) something said,
- (2) refers to Jesus as “the Word,” and
- (3) an utterance, etc. (See Strong’s G3004 & G3056).

Five examples of elect or chosen from 1 Peter:

1) The “elect” of verse 2 should be read in verse 1 only. It should follow after “Jesus Christ” in verse 1. The elect (Greek: ἐκλεκτοῖς) is an adjective in the dative case, masculine, and plural. The word “elect” is describing the adjectival pronominal “strangers” (παρεπιδημοῖς). They agree with each other; that is, both are in the dative, masculine and plural.

2) 1 Peter 2:4 “...disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God and precious...” Chosen (ἐκλεκτὸν) is an adjective, accusative, masculine, and singular in the Greek. Chosen and precious are not only side by side, but both are adjectives in the accusative, masculine, and singular describing the stone (λίθον) which is a noun, accusative, masculine, and singular.

3) 1 Peter 2:6 “...Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious...”
elect (ἐκλεκτὸν) Again, elect and precious are side by side in the Greek and both are adjectives in the accusative, masculine, and singular describing the stone (λίθον) which is a noun, accusative, masculine, singular.

4) 1 Peter 2:9 “But ye are a chosen generation...”
chosen (ἐκλεκτὸν) is an adjective, nominative, neutral, singular, and is linked to the word “generation.”

5) 1 Peter 5:13 “...elected together with you...”
elected (συνεκλεκτῆ) is an adjective, pronominal, nominative, feminine, and singular.

Also, six times a form of the word καλέω (called) will be used:

1 Peter 1:15	καλεσαντα	having called	} All of these are verbs from the stem καλέω and <i>not</i> from ἐκλεκτοῖς.
1 Peter 2:9	καλέσαντος	having called	
1 Peter 2:21	ἐκλήθητε	you were called	
1 Peter 3:6	καλοῦσα	calling him	
1 Peter 3:9	ἐκλήθητε	you were called	
1 Peter 5:10	καλέσας	having called you	