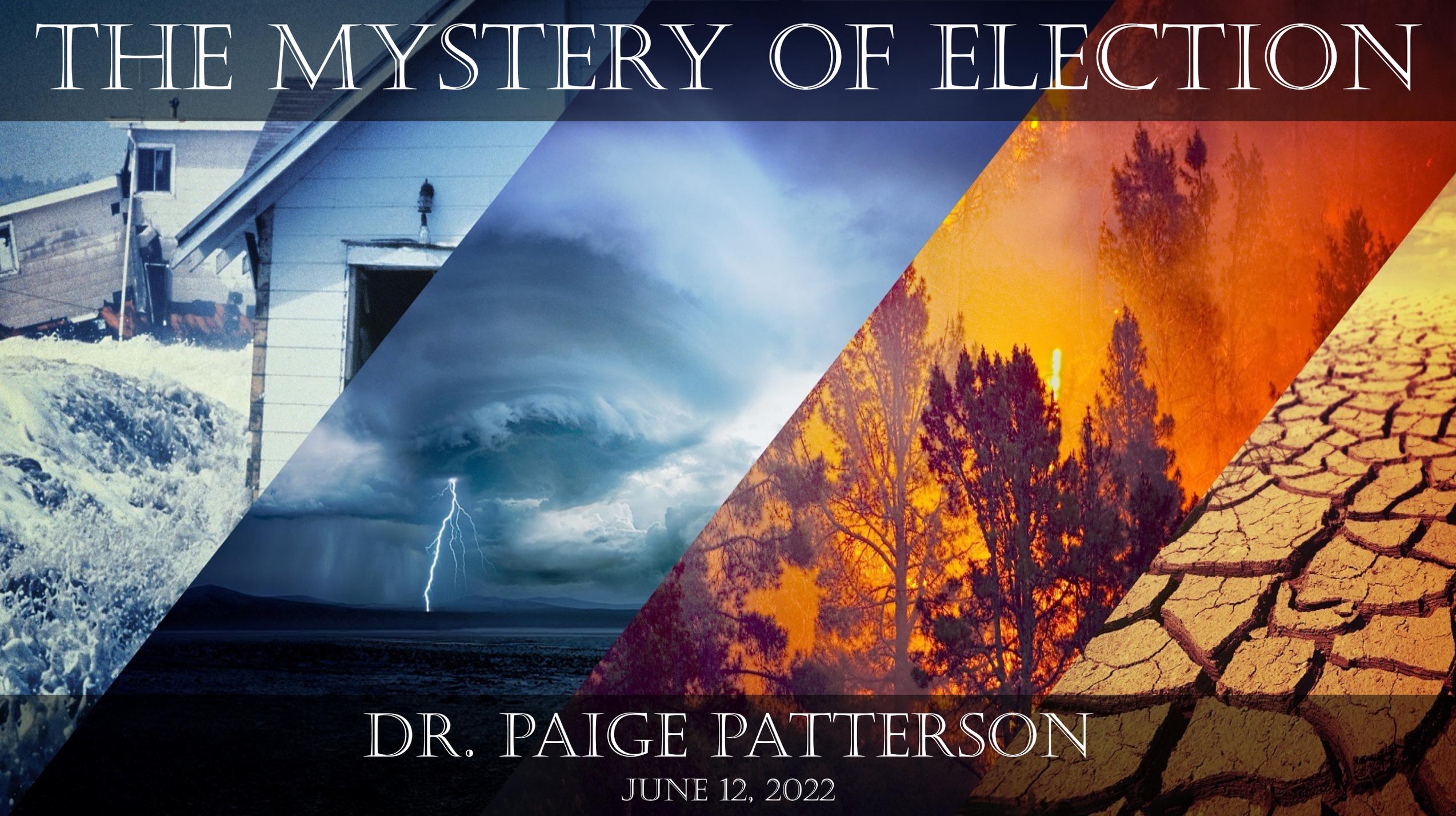


# THE MYSTERY OF ELECTION

The background is a collage of four distinct images. The top-left quadrant shows a house with a large pile of snow in front of it. The top-center quadrant depicts a dramatic, dark storm with a bright lightning bolt striking down. The top-right quadrant features a sunset or sunrise over a line of trees, with a warm orange and yellow glow. The bottom-right quadrant shows a close-up of a cracked, textured stone or concrete surface.

DR. PAIGE PATTERSON

JUNE 12, 2022

# The Problem

## The Bible Says

Romans 8:29 (NKJV)

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

1 Peter 1:2 (NKJV)

elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

## It Also Says

Matthew 28:18-20 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.

John 3:16 (NKJV)

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

# The Problem

## The Bible Says

Ephesians 1:1-5 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: <sup>2</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup>Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, <sup>4</sup>just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, <sup>5</sup>having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will

## It Also Says

2 Corinthians 7:10 (NKJV)

For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

John 3:18 (NKJV)

“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

# The Problem

## The Bible Says

2 Peter 1:10 (NKJV)

Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

Romans 9:10-12 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup>And not only *this*, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, *even* by our father Isaac <sup>11</sup>(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) <sup>12</sup>it was said to her, “*The older shall serve the younger.*”

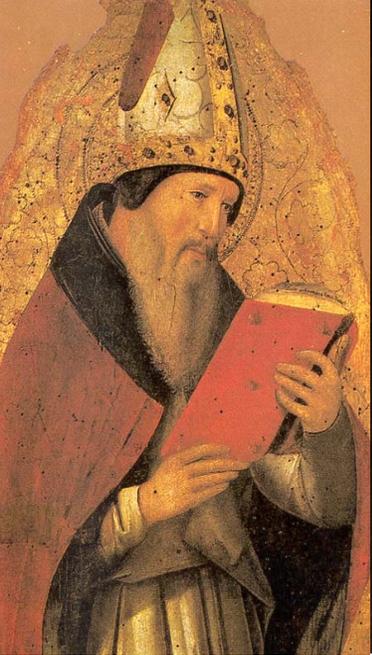
## It Also Says

John 3:36 (NKJV)

He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

Exodus 19:12 (NKJV)

You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, “Take heed to yourselves *that* you do *not* go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death.

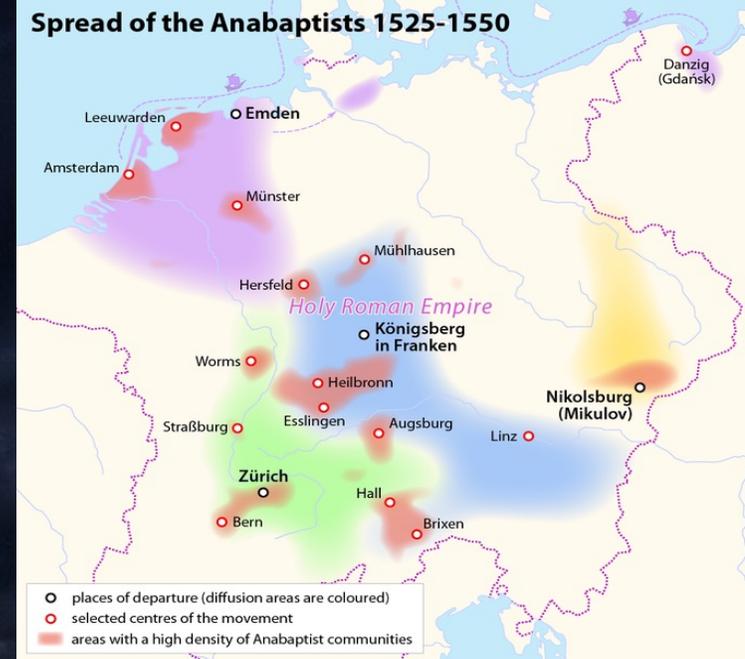


# Who Are the Players?

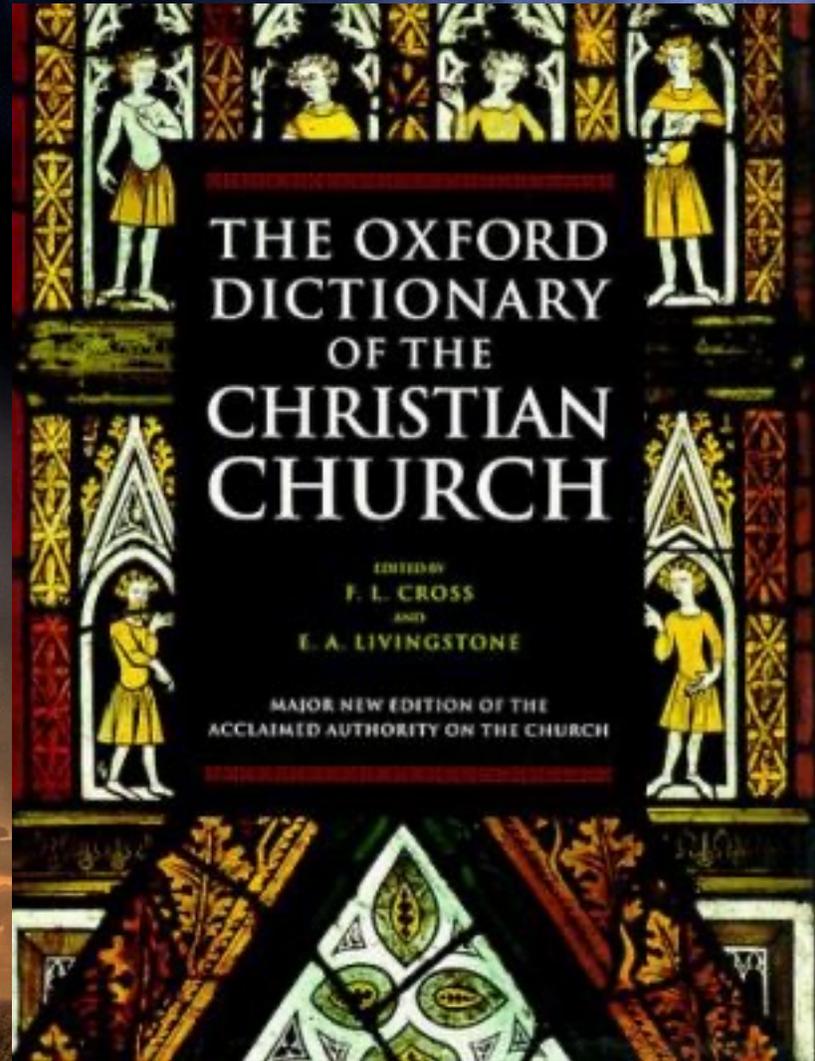
1. Augustine of Hippo (354 – 430)
2. John Calvin (1509 – 1564)
3. Martin Luther (1483 – 1546)
4. Jacob Arminius (1560 – 1601)
5. Luis de Molina (1535 – 1600)
6. The Anabaptists (Jan. 21, 1525)

- Conrad Grebel
- Michael Sattler
- Simon Stumpf
- Wilhelm Reublin
- Felix Manz
- Balthasar Hubmaier
- Pilgram Marpek

7. John Wesley (1703 – 1791)
8. George Whitfield (1734 – 1770)
9. Henry VII (1491 – 1547)
10. Moise Amyraut (1596 – 1664)
11. C.H. Spurgeon (1834 – 1892)

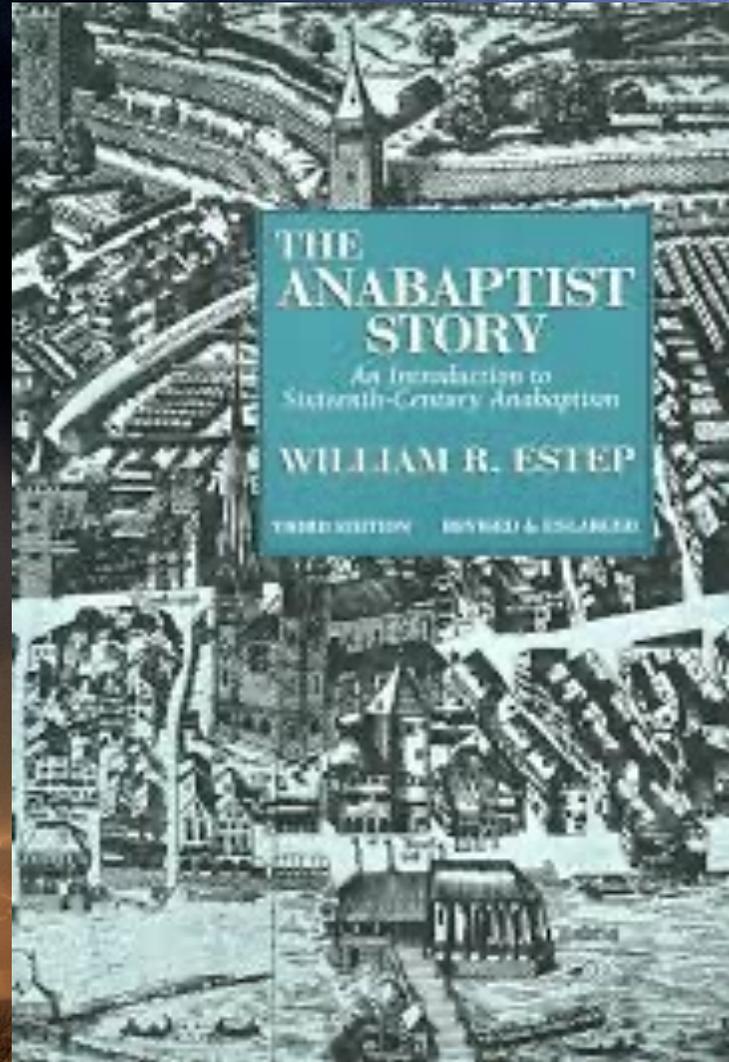


# The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church



Edited by F.L. Cross and E.A. Livingstone

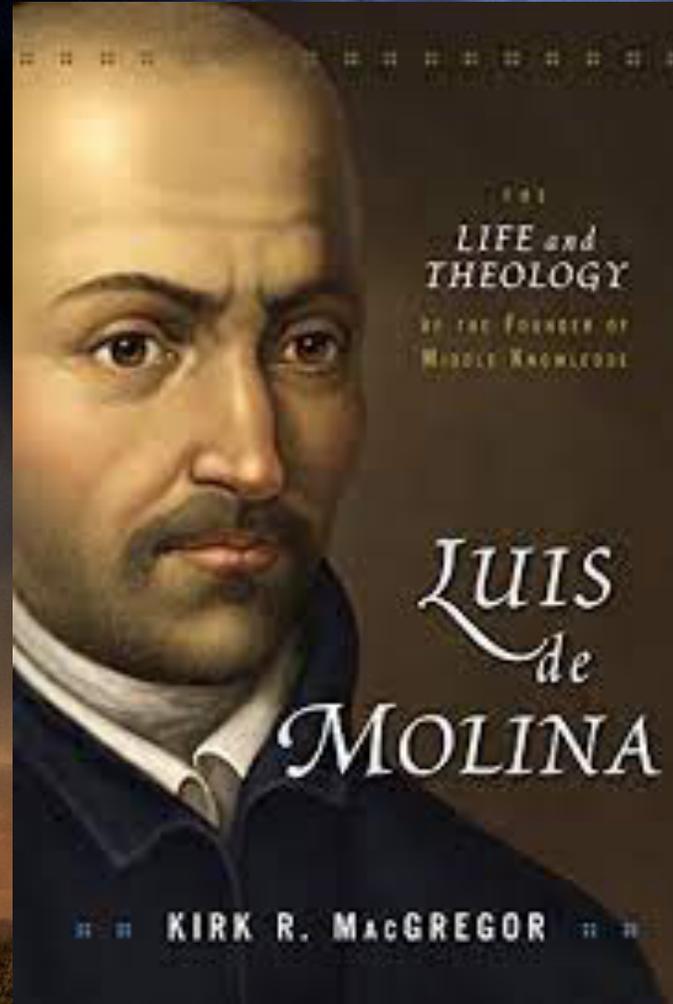
# The Anabaptist Story



William R. Estep

# Luis de Molina

## Life and Theology of the Founder of Middle Knowledge



Kirk R. MacGregor

# Special Terminology

1. Supralapsarianism – Election prior to fall
2. Infralapsarianism – Election following the fall
3. Sublapsarianism – Another term for Infralapsarian
4. Arminianism – Reject all definitions on Calvinism's 5 points
5. Molinism – God knows all including counterfactuals
6. Anabaptists – Free church
7. Antinomianism – No law for those under grace
8. Amyraldianism – Median between Arminianism and Predestination

# Notable Events

1. Augustine of Hippo – Around 400 develops strong system
2. Calvin arrives in Geneva – 1536
3. Luther's 95 Theses – October 31, 1517
4. Anabaptist Rise of Free Church 1525
5. Westminster Confession – 1648
6. Henry VII
  - Marries pregnant Anne – 1533
  - Book of Common Prayer – 1552
  - 39 Articles – 1563
7. Luis de Molina – d. 1600 / Jesuit

# Teacher's Conclusions

Profoundly do I admire much of the scholarship and much of the exegetical work of many Calvinists. Even more do I thank God for the pious lifestyles of Non-Antinomian Calvinists and their fervent love for Christ. But I cannot align with the Reformed segment of the Faith. Why?

1. Many Calvinists make God the Author of evil
2. Total Depravity often means total inability
3. Unconditional Election
4. Limited Atonement – 1 John 2:11-12
5. Irresistible Grace
6. Definition of Love
7. Regeneration preceding Faith
8. The unpardonable sin – Matthew 12:31-32
9. The character of God
10. Church Government and Baptism

# Eight Theses on Election

8

eight

- I. Two mistakes can be and often are made.
  - A. To treat the doctrine of election in the Bible as though it did not exist at all.
  - B. To construct one's theology and soteriology primarily around the doctrine of election.
- II. Any assessment of the soteriology of the Bible must reckon with the entire witness of the Scripture without facile handling of apparently divergent texts.
- III. Any construal of the doctrine of election that makes one more of an evangelist for a system of theology than an evangelist for Jesus, and His free salvation to all men is seriously at odds with the Word of God.
- IV. Any formulation of the doctrine of election that diminishes in any way either intentionally or unintentionally the passion for or an aggressive practice of confrontational evangelism must be jettisoned as unworthy of both the spirit and the mandate of the New Testament.



# Eight Theses on Election

8

eight

- V. Any formulation of the doctrine of election that eliminates some or most of all of the people on the face of the globe from any possibility of salvation at the outset and automatically condemns them to hell reduces the warning of Jesus about the unpardonable sin to little more than spiritual terrorism, or worse, deliberate deceit, since by definition every sin of the non-elect is unforgivable.
- VI. Election is somehow bound up in the foreknowledge of God.
- VII. Jesus is God's elect; to be "in Christ" is to be in God's elect or the recipient of God electing providence.

1 Peter 2:6

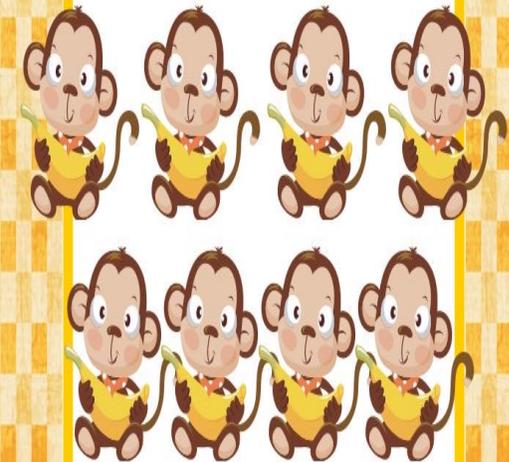
Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture,

*"Behold, I lay in Zion*

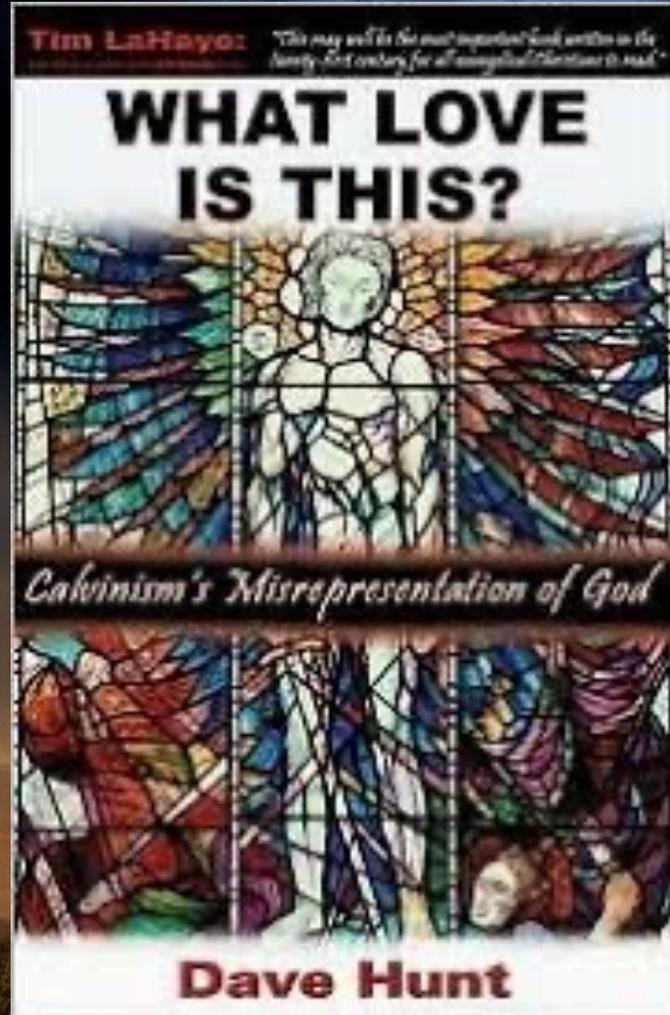
*A chief cornerstone, elect, precious,*

*And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame."*

- VIII. If we are unable to resolve the apparent paradox of biblical instruction, its heavenly wisdom proving too transcendent for fallen intellects, then perhaps we should advance to a new question. Maybe instead of asking how it all works, we ought to ask instead, "Why is the doctrine of election in the Bible?"



# What Love is This? Calvinism's Misrepresentation of God



Dave Hunt