

**A SCRIPTURAL INQUIRY INTO
THE ELECTION OF GRACE AS
IT CONCERNS MAN'S
CONDITION & PROSPECTS**

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A Scriptural Inquiry into the Election of Grace as It Concerns Man's Condition & Prospects by
Jeremiah Jackson

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JEREMIAH JACKSON

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BY
JEREMIAH JACKSON, M.A.
VICAR OF ELM-CUM-EMNETH.

'Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according
to the election of grace.' — Rom. xi. 5.



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PREFACE.

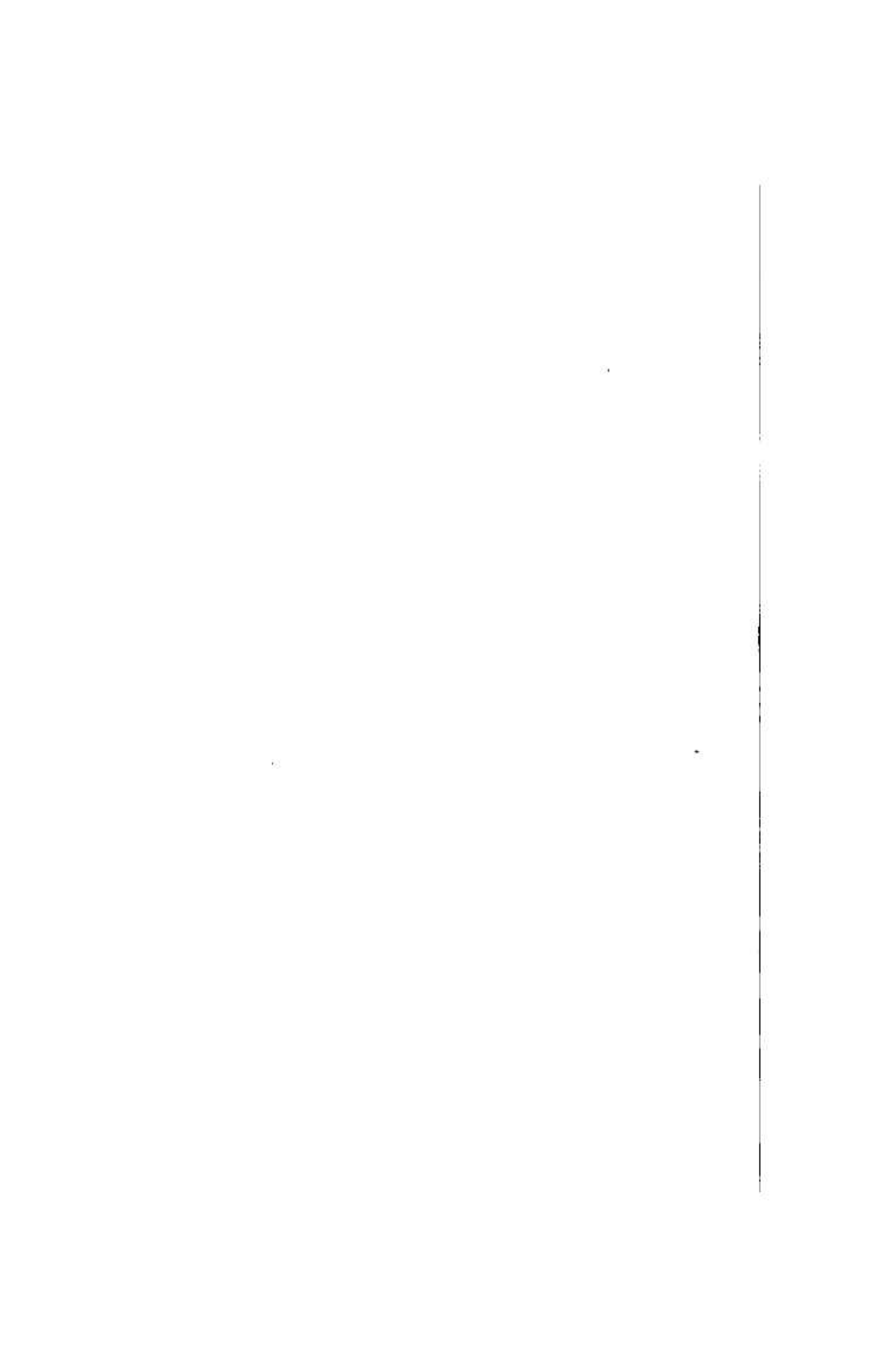
THE election of grace is generally admitted to be one of the most abstruse doctrines of holy writ. The passages relating thereto are given for the most part with little explanation. The diction employed in them, belonging to times and habits of thought widely different from our own, is often to us full of ambiguity. And it so happens, that the human mind often finds its greatest pleasure in the places hardest to be understood, brings them forward on all occasions, and forces them into every discussion of either creed or rite. The author was hence led to inquire, with all humility, into their meaning, and by a comparison of things spiritual with spiritual to endeavour to make out what, in respect to man, we are to understand by them. There may be some who would kindly warn us that our subject is scarcely an open question, is 'far above out of our sight,' is forbidden ground by no mortal foot to be trodden; that to pry into mysteries so exalted is presumptuous, is even dangerous to minds not of the firmest texture and most mature convictions. To such friendly caution it may be sufficient to reply, that whatever presumption or danger there may be in the effort, lies not in the investigation, but in the temper with which it is undertaken and carried on. By the Great Teacher we are instructed to 'search the Scriptures;' and by the disciple whom

he loved, to 'believe not every spirit, but to try the spirits whether they be of God, because many false prophets are gone out into the world.' We may, therefore, without offence or peril, 'prove all things,' so that we be careful, with God's aid, 'to hold fast that which is good;' to 'do (intentionally) nothing against the truth but for the truth;' to 'speak (what we believe to be) the truth in love.' And since it has been our aim to simplify the subject, to divest it of all extraneous matter, to adhere closely to the Scriptures; not only to form opinions, but to state the grounds on which they are formed; and, above all, to avoid any comment on such parts of God's work in election as are not revealed, we may perhaps have been enabled to escape some of the obstacles that must otherwise have impeded our course. Under this authority, and on these principles, the inquiry has been attempted, in a spirit not of controversy, but of patient research; and with a view to brotherly agreement among all who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, and to that peaceful union of mind and heart which, in the Reformed and Protestant Churches, was never more desirable than at the present hour. The result is in the reader's hands, and, so far as it accords with the written word, the only sure rule of faith, is commended to his attentive consideration.

ELM VICARAGE,
Nov. 1853

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THE
ELECTION OF GRACE.

BY the election of grace, we understand God's choice of men, according to the good pleasure of his will, to spiritual privileges. So far there is no difficulty. But as no definite account is given by inspiration of God, of the privileges intended, doubts are entertained of their nature and extent. To remove or lessen these doubts, is the object of our investigation. Warm have been the disputes entered into, and numberless the books written upon this subject; but 'the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God,' and for the present writer, there is but one Book possessed of any authority in such discussions, and to the test of which he wishes to submit all his reasonings.

To learn what we may of the election of grace, as set forth in the Scriptures, and of what nature and extent is the blessing conveyed by it, we must begin with going back to the earliest ages, and the first communications of the Almighty with his creatures recorded by the lawgiver of Israel.