

# John 17:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

## Analysis

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**As thou hast given him power over all flesh** (ἐξουσίαν πάσης σαρκός, exousian pasēs sarkos)—The Father has delegated universal sovereignty to the Son. Exousia means delegated authority, not inherent power; it emphasizes Christ's role as Mediator between God and humanity. **All flesh** encompasses every human being without exception, Jew and Gentile alike.

**That he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him**—The purpose of Christ's authority is soteriological: to bestow eternal life (ζωὴν αἰώνιον, zōēn aiōnion) upon the elect. This verse reveals both divine sovereignty (the Father gives people to the Son) and Christ's mediatorial work (He gives them eternal life). The gift is particular, not universal—as many as (πᾶν ὅ, pan ho) distinguishes the elect from 'all flesh' in general. This is the heart of Reformed soteriology: Christ's salvific authority extends to all, but His saving work is effectual only for those given Him by the Father.

## Historical Context

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This is part of Jesus's High Priestly Prayer (John 17), prayed in the upper room or en route to Gethsemane on the night before His crucifixion. This prayer reveals the eternal covenant between Father and Son regarding redemption. First-century Jews would have understood 'power over all flesh' as Messianic authority fulfilling Daniel 7:13-14, where the Son of Man receives dominion over all peoples.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does Christ's universal authority over 'all flesh' relate to His particular mission to save 'as many as thou hast given him'?
2. What assurance does it give you that eternal life comes through Christ's delegated authority from the Father, rather than human merit or decision?

## Interlinear Text

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καθὼς δώσῃ αὐτοῖς ἐξουσίαν πᾶν σαρκός ἵνα

As he should give him power as many as flesh that

G2531 G1325

G846

G1849

G3956

G4561

G2443

πᾶν ὁ δώσῃ αὐτοῖς δώσῃ αὐτοῖς ζωὴν

as many as to he should give him he should give him life

G3956

G3739

G1325

G846

G1325

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G2222

αἰώνιον

eternal

G166

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 6:39** (Parallel theme): And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

**John 6:37** (Parallel theme): All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

**Matthew 28:18** (Parallel theme): And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

**John 17:24** (Parallel theme): Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

**Daniel 7:14** (Eternal Life): And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

**1 John 5:20** (Eternal Life): And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

**John 17:9** (Parallel theme): I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

**John 17:6** (Parallel theme): I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

**John 3:35** (Parallel theme): The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

**John 4:14** (Eternal Life): But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.