

Christ & His Bride

Lesson #9

Predestination

April 2, 2025

Truth: The Bible clearly teaches Foreknowledge, Election & Predestination.

It is a Biblically settled fact: God's Foreknowledge is linked to both Election [I Peter 1:1-2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father] & Predestination. [Rom. 8:29; Acts 2:23]

Question: Were there people In Christ BEFORE the foundation of the world?

Answer: No. What was BEFORE the foundation of the world?

It was God's choice, based upon God's foreknowledge. When did you become "in Christ?"

Rom. 16:7 Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellow-prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, Who Also Were In Christ Before Me.

Key Point: We all had a point in time when we were not "in Christ."

Born-again believers had a point in time when they were placed "IN CHRIST."

Predestinate #4309 proorizó: foreordain, predetermine, mark out beforehand.
a destination or goal determined beforehand

In the New Testament, it is used to describe God's sovereign decision and plan, particularly in relation to Salvation and the Destiny Of Believers.

Predestination is linked to God's plan of salvation and God's plan for the believers.

Scripture does not use the word "predestination" to describe our eternal destination, heaven or hell. It is used to describe certain results—destinies, guaranteed of those in Christ.

Key Point: Predestination is not about God predetermining who will be in Christ and who will not.

It is about God determining what will become of those who are in Christ through faith.

This term underscores the Biblical theme of God's sovereignty and His redemptive plan through Jesus Christ. [Acts 4:28; Rom. 8:29-30; I Cor. 2:7; Eph. 1:5, 11]

God Predestined His Plan For Salvation

Acts 2:22-24 Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man clearly attested to you by God with powerful deeds, wonders, and miraculous signs that God performed among you through Him, just as you yourselves know— this man, who was handed over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you executed by nailing Him to a cross at the hands of Gentiles. ²⁴ But God raised Him up, having released Him from the pains of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held in its power.

Determinate #3724 horizó: to determine, appoint, designate, or set boundaries.

Reflects the sovereignty of God in determining the course of history and the roles of individuals within His divine plan.

Foreknew 4267 proginóskó= to know beforehand: In the New Testament, it is often used in the context of God's omniscience and His divine plan, indicating His knowledge of events or individuals before they come into existence or before they occur.

Acts 2:37-41 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" ³⁸Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is to you, and to your children, and to all who are far off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."

Call = 4341 proskaleó: To summon or invite: This term is frequently used by Jesus when He calls His disciples or when He invites individuals to follow Him.

⁴⁰With many other words he testified, and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!" ⁴¹Then those who gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

God does not pick people and make them do evil. He saw (across time) their choices, and orchestrated things around those choices to fulfill His purposes. God used Herod and Pilate, Gentiles, and Jews, to place Christ on the cross for our salvation. [Acts 4:27-28]

➤ Jesus was delivered over by the predetermined plan & foreknowledge of God

The Roman soldiers were not following their own plan of execution.

They unknowingly followed a foreseen, foreknown, predetermined plan of God.

But God's sovereign plans and purposes for Jesus do not remove man's responsibility. Peter charged the Jews with murder, a murder they accomplished through the hands of the Romans.

➤ Jesus' birth, ministry, death and resurrection were no accidents of history. It was God's eternally set and decreed plan and purpose. God's purpose was the salvation of sinners.

I Tim. 1:15 "Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners."



Key: God doesn't call some people to salvation and not call others.

- Whenever the Gospel is preached, God is calling people to salvation.
- God calls through the preaching of the Word

II Thess. 2:13-14 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: ¹⁴ Whereunto He called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God Calls People By The Preaching Of The Gospel Of Jesus Christ.

God wants all men to be saved. The Holy Spirit of God takes the Word of God, and

God opens the eyes of the blind so he can see what he could not have seen otherwise.

When you hear the Gospel, it is God calling you.

You can resist the call. The Holy Spirit can be resisted.

Matt. 23:37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

God's Foreknowledge of My Salvation & What Is Predestined

Rom. 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.

Rom. 8:29a For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son,

Predestined #4309. proorizó = predetermine, mark out beforehand.

In the NT, it is used to describe God's sovereign decision & plan, particularly in relation to salvation & the Destiny Of Believers.

Adrian Rogers: God foreknew that you would receive the Lord Jesus Christ. [I Pet. 1:2]

When God saw you receiving the Lord Jesus Christ in His omniscience,

He said by His omnipotence that He was going to make you like Jesus.

Predestination is not dealing with the lost, but with the saved.

God has given the elect [whosoever] to the Lord Jesus.

One day, the Lord Jesus will present them all to the Father, all present and accounted for.

I Cor. 2:7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the *wisdom* once hidden [from man, but now revealed to us by God, that wisdom] which God predestined before the ages to our glory [to lift us into the glory of His presence]. [Amplified]

Wiersbe: There is a "wisdom of God" in the Gospel that challenges the keenest intellect.

However, this wisdom is not for the masses of lost sinners, nor is it for the immature believers.

It is for the mature believers who are growing in their understanding of the Word of God.

I Cor. 2:6 Yet we do speak wisdom among those *spiritually* mature

[believers who have teachable hearts and a greater understanding]; Amplified

- This wisdom comes from God, not man.
- This wisdom tells the mature saint about the vast eternal plan that God has for His people and His creation.
- This wisdom involves God's ordination.
God made the plan, set it in motion, and will see to it that His plan will succeed.
- This wisdom results in the glory of God's people.

One of the greatest expositions of this wisdom, God's plan of the ages, is in Ephesians 1.

What is predestined: God's plan or people's actions?

Predestination: one's destiny is determined after coming to Jesus in faith.

Pre-destination: a destiny is set beforehand. It is about God's plan for saved people.

God Predestined Those IN CHRIST

Ephesians 1-3: Paul states 3 chapters of doctrine which include

our position in Christ, what we are in Christ and what Christ did.

Ephesians 4-6: Paul states 3 chapters of our response and our duty.

Paul balances doctrine with duty.

We inherit the wealth by faith. We invest the wealth by works.

Without this balance, our spiritual riches do us no good

Has God chosen people to be placed in Christ or has God chosen individuals who are in Christ?

Has God predetermined people to be in Christ or has God chosen a predetermined end for those who are in Christ?

Ephesians 1: "He chose us to be in Christ" or "He chose us in Christ?"

Eph. 1:1-2 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints who are at Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus: [NASB]

Paul's audience is "the faithful in Christ Jesus." He introduces his theme, "in Christ," which continues through this entire section of the text. He repeats this phrase, in various forms,

- In Him In Christ In the Beloved

Paul addressed his readers as saints 9 times. When the sinner trusts Christ as his Savior, he is taken out of "the world" and placed "in Christ." When Paul addressed his letter to the "saints ... and faithful in Christ Jesus" he was not addressing two different groups of people. The word faithful carries the meaning of "believers in Christ Jesus." These people were not saved by living faithful lives; rather they put their faith in Christ and were saved.

The phrase "in Christ Jesus," used 27 times describes the spiritual position of the believer: He is identified with Christ. He is in Christ and therefore is able to draw on the wealth of Christ for his own daily living.

Eph. 1:2 Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Eph. 1:3-14 is one long sentence in Greek. It traces God's activity in salvation from Eternity past, through time and through eternity future, including the mystery of God's will

➤ Previously undisclosed

Eph. 1:3-6 Spiritual riches from God the Father.

Eph. 1:7-12 Spiritual riches from God the Son.

Eph. 1:13-14 Spiritual riches from God the Holy Spirit.

Eph. 1:6, 12, 14 Paul explained: All Of This Is Done For God's Glory.

Spiritual Riches from: God the Father: Eph. 1:3-6

Eph. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

Everything God has for the believer is in Christ. Your position is in Christ.

Spiritual wealth in Christ refers to the abundant and eternal blessings believers receive through their relationship with Jesus, including inheritance, the fruits of the Spirit, wisdom, and knowledge, leading to a deeper relationship with God

Wiersbe: The Christian really operates in two spheres: the human and the divine, the visible and the invisible. Physically, he is on the earth in a human body, but spiritually he is seated with Christ in the heavenly sphere—and it is this heavenly sphere that provides the power and direction for the earthly walk.

Eph. 1:4 According as He hath chosen us [the faithful in Christ] in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame BEFORE Him in love:

Reminder: I Pet. 1:2a Elect According To The Foreknowledge Of God The Father...

Question: Have the "elect" always been in Christ?

Some would say that God has always seen us [the elect] in Christ.

Reminder: Remember Paul's statement in Rom. 16:7: who were in Christ before me.

➤ Would that suggest that the "elect" have always been without condemnation?

Rom. 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Key: Being in Christ, there is no condemnation.

If God has always seen us as being in Christ, God has never seen us as being condemned.

So does that suggest: The elect have always been redeemed and forgiven?

Question: Has God always seen us as being in Him?

If so, then God has always seen us as being redeemed and forgiven of our sins.

Therefore, we have never been under condemnation and never needed saved?

Reminder: I Pet. 1:2a Elect According To The Foreknowledge Of God The Father...

Eph. 1:4 According as He hath chosen us [the faithful in Christ] in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame BEFORE Him in love:

According to: 2531 kathos just as; even as, in the same way: It often introduces a simile or analogy, indicating that one thing is similar to or in accordance with another. In the New Testament, it frequently appears in teachings of Jesus and the apostles to illustrate moral, spiritual, or doctrinal truths by comparing them to familiar concepts or actions.

Eph. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

Key: Just as...He now lists the spiritual blessings for those in Christ in v.4-14

Eph. 1:4 According as He hath chosen [elect] us [the faithful in Christ] in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be Holy And Without Blame BEFORE Him in love:

Question: Does Paul mean that God has chosen certain individuals to believe before they were born? OR

Has God chosen whoever is in Him by faith to be holy and blameless? [predetermined end]

Key: Who is the US? The faithful > those who were IN CHRIST. [verse 1]

➤ That we should be holy and without blame BEFORE Him...

Before #2714. Katenópion = in the presence of; In the New Testament, it is frequently used to describe standing before God or in His sight, emphasizing the omnipresence and omniscience of God. In Jewish thought, being "before God" was a profound concept, reflecting the belief in God's all-seeing nature and the importance of living a life that is transparent and accountable to Him. Used only 3x in Scripture:

Col. 1:22 He has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach BEFORE Him,

Jude 1:24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless BEFORE the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

This passage is not about God predetermining which individuals will be in Christ and which will not. It is about God predetermining what will become of those who are in Christ through faith.

Predestination is not about God causing someone to believe while passing by the rest.

It is about the destiny God has set for those who are IN HIM. It is set beforehand.

Key Point: Those IN CHRIST are predestined to be holy and blameless

Dr. Leighton Flowers: "If any doctrine has God choosing a people or nation to the neglect of all other nations and individuals, that is not a Biblical doctrine of election."

The Biblical Doctrine of Election we first see in Genesis 12 to Abram:

I have chosen you to be a blessing to all the other nations and families of the earth. God chose the nation of Israel to show the others that He is the true God.

He chose them to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

Some say, "God chose Paul," but to the neglect of others.

NO, God chose Paul to be a blessing and to bring the Gospel to others.

Example: A huge storm is coming to our town. God sends a messenger, angel, to warn all the people about the storm. Good News! A huge fortress is being prepared in the middle of the city. If you choose to take refuge in the fortress, you will live.

It has been predetermined, predestined, that if you get in the fortress, you will be safe and live. If you choose not to get in the fortress, you will die.

The storm comes! All those who believe God's messenger take refuge in the fortress and live. All who did not believe the messenger and take refuge in the fortress, died.

Question: Is it correct to say that everyone inside the fortress was predestined to live?

Note: There is no mention of stating that they were predestined to get in the fortress.

Some chose to get in the fortress in response to the warning of God's messenger.

God predestined [destined beforehand] what would happen to those who were in the fortress.

Ps. 91:2 I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

Noah preached for 120 years before God closed the door. Everyone that perished refused to heed his warning. They weren't 'predestined' to not believe him.

Consider: Each person must choose to get in the fortress. When a person chooses to get in the fortress, get in The Ark freely, God has destined beforehand that you will be saved.

Acts 27:31 Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved. [Unless these men remain on the ship, you yourselves cannot be saved.]"

The LORD predestined for everyone who remained on the ship to be saved from the storm.

He did not predestine who actually remained on the ship.

They had a choice to remain and live or leave and die. They trusted and believed.

We see the same pattern over and over again throughout the Scriptures.

Suppose there are two football coaches living in the same town. Coach Smith & Coach Jones.

Coach Smith is in a league where he pre-selects and compels each player to be on his team.

Coach Jones invites whoever wants to play football to join his team voluntarily.

One thing in common: Prior to the teams being formed both coaches had predetermined

to conform their team members into well-conditioned and trained football players.

Some people state that Ephesians 1:4 teaches: God is like "Coach Smith."

Examine the text: It states what the coach has predetermined for his team to become.

It says nothing about his predetermining who would and would not be on the team. ["in Him"].

Eph. 1:5 In love, having predestinated us [the saints, the faithful in Christ Jesus] unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Predestined 4309. proorizó = predetermine, mark out beforehand. In the NT, it is used to describe God's sovereign decision and plan, particularly in relation to Salvation and the Destiny of believers. It emphasizes God's Foreknowledge and Purpose in the unfolding of His divine will.

⁶To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the beloved. Believers "in Christ" are predestined to be holy and blameless; adopted by Jesus Christ to Himself; accepted in the Beloved and to the praise of the glory of His grace.

Eph. 1:7-12 Spiritual Riches From God The Son.

Eph. 1:7-12 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace;

⁸ Which He lavished on us in all wisdom and understanding,

⁹ Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself [in Christ]:

¹⁰ That in the dispensation of the fulness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him:

What is predestined in Ephesians 1:11?

¹¹ In whom also we have obtained an inheritance,

Obtained an inheritance: 2820 kléroó: choose by lot, assign by lot, assign a portion, receive a share. In the New Testament, it is used to describe the act of being appointed or chosen, often by divine will, to receive a specific role, responsibility, or blessing. [only time used in NT]

¹¹ In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will:

¹²that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. [having first trusted]

Key: Who obtained an inheritance? The believers who are IN CHRIST.

Who first trusted: 4276 proelpizó It implies a forward-looking confidence or expectation, often in the context of faith and trust in God's promises. This term is used to describe a proactive hope that is rooted in faith, anticipating the fulfillment of God's word and His divine plan. [Only time used in Scripture]

Eph. 1:13-14 Spiritual riches from God the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit, mentioned many times in this letter, is the One who channels our riches to us from the Father, through the Son. Unless you have the witness of the Spirit [Rom. 8:15-16], you cannot draw on the wealth of the Spirit.

Paul gives an answer in 1:13-14 to this vital question; "How does one come to be in Him?"

First question: When were they included in Christ?

Was it before the foundation of the world? What answer does the text give?

¹³ In whom you also trusted, after that ye heard the Word of Truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of Promise, Key: Who made the choice to trust? The ones IN CHRIST!

When did they choose to trust? After they heard the Word of Truth!

Consider: They were chosen because they trusted. They did not trust because they were chosen

Second question: When were they marked in Him? Was it before the world began and without any regard to their response to the gospel? What does the text say?

Answer: Ephesians 1:13: After believing in the Gospel, you are sealed in Him by the Holy Spirit as a born again, new creature in Christ. [II Cor. 5:17]

When You Believed, You Were Marked In Him With A Seal, The Promised Holy Spirit, 1:14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of His glory.

¹³In whom you also trusted, after that ye heard the Word of Truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of Promise, When did you trust in Christ? After you heard...After you believed.

When were you marked and sealed? When you believed

Belief: One must believe in order to be marked "in Him" and receive the Holy Spirit. It is "IN HIM" we are made alive or raised.

Examples of Spiritual Wealth

Adoption:	Becoming a child of God.
Acceptance:	Being welcomed into God's family.
Redemption:	Being bought back from sin and slavery.
Forgiveness:	Having sins forgiven through Christ.
Wisdom:	Gaining understanding and knowledge of God's ways.
Inheritance:	Receiving the blessings of God's kingdom.
The Seal of the Holy Spirit:	Being marked as belonging to God.
Life:	Having eternal life through faith in Christ.
Grace:	Receiving God's unearned favor.
Citizenship:	Being a citizen of God's kingdom.

Why has God the Father chosen us, adopted us, and accepted us?

- To the praise of the glory of His grace [Eph. 1:6].

Why has the Son redeemed us, revealed God's will to us, and made us part of God's inheritance?

- That we should be to the praise of His glory [Eph. 1:12].

Why has God the Spirit, sealed us and become the guarantee of our future blessing?

- Unto the praise of His glory [Eph. 1:14].

All these riches come by God's grace and for God's glory.

The divine "Coach" has invited all to come and join His team...

- Col. 1:23, John 12:32, Matt. 28:19, II Cor. 5:19-21, Mark 16:15, Matt. 11:28

He genuinely desires all to come.

- II Peter 3:9, I Tim. 2:4, Ek. 18:30-32, Matt. 23:37, Rom. 10:21

All who respond and come:

- will be trained sanctified, conformed into His image -Rom. 8:29
- and guaranteed a spot adopted in glorification

This is what our "Coach" has predetermined for all who are on HIS TEAM!

When we accept Jesus as Savior and Lord, we are set on a journey where God will complete His good purpose of taking ordinary, fallen people, indwelling us with His Spirit, and conforming us to His moral character. Predestination is about the glorification and adoption process, not about salvation or whether we choose God or God chooses us. Predestination assures us that what is true of Christ will one day be totally true of us.

Rev. 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come.

And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

It is a staggering thought that we shall one day share in the very glory of God.