

Predestination



**Bible study Series
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Foreknown, Predestined, Called, Justified, Glorified.

Romans 8:29

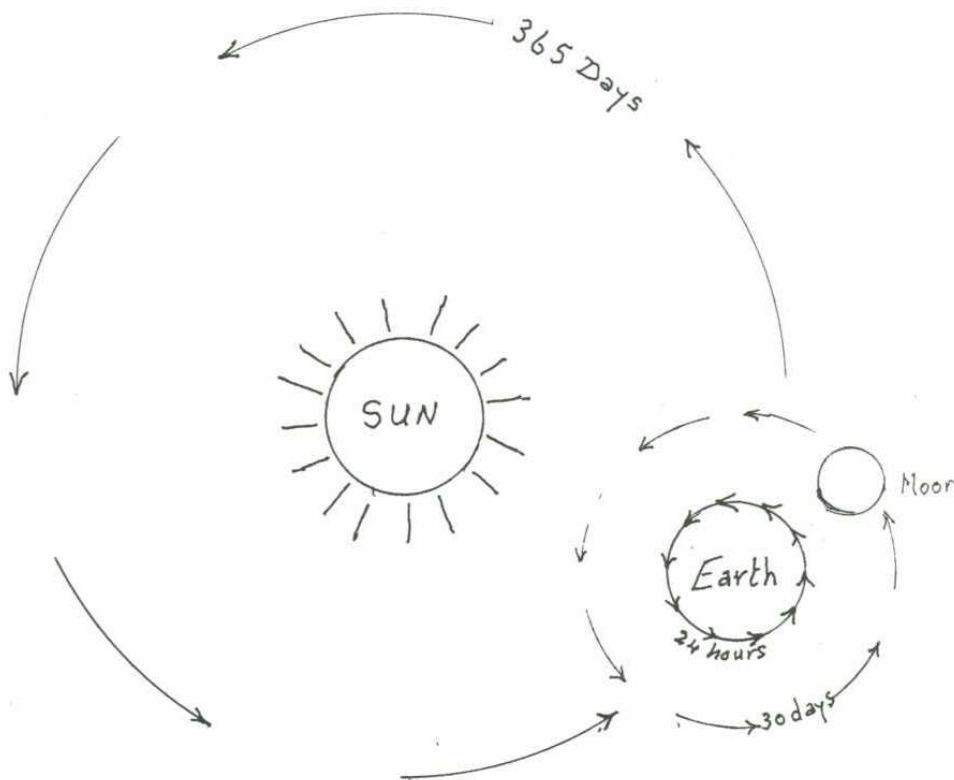
Predestination is the most misunderstood doctrine by most Christians in general and even by a good number of scholars and theologians in particular. It is all about God's time. That is because very few people think of God as timeless.

Surprised? Yes, you should be.

And in order to understand the whole subject, we should go back to Genesis. So, in Gen. 1:1 the Holy Scripture tells us that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. This in itself means that God has been present before creation. How long before, we do not know; not because it is not recorded in the Scripture, but because God is timeless and we do not know a beginning or an end for Him, the thing which we express as **Eternal**.

Then, in verses 2-13, the Holy Scripture tells us that God created several things in the first three days, and in verses 14-19 the Scripture tells us that He created the Sun and the moon on the fourth day.

This is very important. Because we know that the earth revolves around itself and at the same time it rotates around the sun, which did not exist before the fourth day. We also know that each complete round around itself is completed in roughly 24 hours, which makes our day and night; and also every rotation of the earth around the sun is completed in one year which makes our Solar year and the four seasons.



Yet the Holy Scripture talks about evenings and mornings and days before the fourth day. Is there a discrepancy here? Certainly **Not**. It is just to tell us that the first 3 days (at least) which the Scripture mentioned are not controlled by the sun or moon or anything else. They were as God counted them according to His own measurement. And consequently they were not 24 hours as we know the days now. How long were they? No body knows. It could be anything from one second to millions or billions of years. And Peter touched on that saying **“But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day.”** (2nd Peter 3:8) And what counts here is not the numerical value, but the fact that every time to God is present not controlled by a certain earthly value. Do you want to know why? Simply because God does not rotate around the sun as we do, so, He is not subject to solar timing as we are. He is Spirit not flesh and blood as we are and He is not limited by space or place, in a way that we can say He dwells east or west of a certain landmark or in relation to the sun or moon, so He is not affected by any of these at all. Consequently, the sun does not rise on Him in the mornings and the moon does not light His nights, because He has no morning or night as He does not sleep or wake up, otherwise (just for example) we cannot pray to Him at (our) nights lest we awake him up! Of course there is no such thing. And the Psalmist also touched on that saying **“He Who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep”** (Ps. 121:3,4).

Now, since we established the fact that God is Timeless, and I mean by that, that He is not affected by the rotation of the earth around itself or around the Sun as it is mentioned in the Holy Scripture: **“The Father of Light (God) with Whom there is no variation or shadow of turning”** (James 1:17); we can go to the next fact which is: to God there is no past or future, it is all **present**.

We humans may find it difficult to understand that, because we think and comprehend in a timely fashion. So we talk about yesterday as past, but to God it is present. Likewise we talk about tomorrow as future, yet to God it is present. So, since God’s time is always present, then He sees our past, present and future all at the same time. So, He sees every person’s life as a movie strip in front of His eyes starting from A ----- Z, even before we are born. And I shall state three Biblical references to that, two from the Old and one from the New Testament:-

- (1) Before they were born and while still in Rebecca’s womb, God said **“The older shall serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated”** (Rom. 9:13). And why is that? Does God hate? The answer is **No**, because God is Love (1st John 4:8), except in one occasion only and that is **Sin**. As it is stated **“You reject all those who are stray from Your statutes.** (Ps. 119:118 and Proverbs. 6:16-19) So, God did (does) not hate Esau but the sin in him. How did (does) God know? Because all the life of Esau was (is) present in front of His eyes as a movie strip from A ----- Z, as mentioned above.

- (2) The Psalmist Says *“I was cast upon You from birth. From my mother’s womb You have been My God”* (Ps. 22:10).
- (3) Paul in the New Testament says *“But when it pleased God, who separated (consecrated) me from my mother’s womb and called me through His Grace”* (Gal. 1:15).

Now after knowing all these facts we can go back to the word **Predestinate**. It is composed of two words: **Pre** which is a prefix meaning before, and **Destinate** (destine) which means determine or ordain. So, it all means predetermine or foreordain.

And the word **predestinate** is a new word to the Scripture in that it was never mentioned as such or in any other form in the Old Testament.

As for the New Testament, it was only used four times by Paul: twice in Romans 8:29,30 ; and twice in Ephesians 1:5,11.

So, the doctrine of predestination simply means predetermination or foreordination of God for His purpose.

No one can deny that, because if we do, then we are degrading God to a level even below humans, because we all have our free will and determination.

But the word itself as used by Paul (being the only person who used it), was used to designate the ultimate future of the soul foreordained to be with God for eternity. One must notice also, that Paul did not use it for those who have been designated to be in Hell (away from God), though it may be inclusively understood.

Yes, predestination is a very sound doctrine, because it has been referred to in a different vocabulary in the New testament since we read about the names written in the book of Life in so many different places such as: Luke 10:20 ; Phil. 4:3 and Rev. 3:5, 13:8, 17:8, 20:12, 21:27,22:19.

What does all this mean?

It means that God in His gracious purpose has foreordained certain people and has their names written in a record which is called the book of life as mentioned above, even before we are born, or yet still from the foundation of the world. (Rev. 13:8 & 17:8).

Sounds strange?

No. He is God. He is the creator. He does and can do anything He wants or desires.

Does this entitle Him to be unfair and unjust, and sets an example of injustice for us to follow?

Certainly Not. Injustice is not one of God’s attributes. He is not only just, but He is merciful. He would not condemn an innocent, nor would He condemn a sinner till He consumes all possible means to gain him back, because *“He desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”* (1tim. 2:4).

So, since we believe that God is just and merciful, then writing some names in the book of life is not done haphazardly with just a mere sovereign notion as

some Christians believe, especially if it is done from the foundation of the world as the Holy Scripture states in Rev. 13:8 & 17:8.

Now, here is what I believe: Since we believe that God's time is always present as we have proved before, and that He sees everybody's life as a film strip in front of His eyes as we mentioned before, then it is obvious that He knows that that person is going to believe in Him or not, and then his name would or would not be written in the book of life. And what I just said is well proven in the title of this article.

So, let us now go back to the title of this article. From the first glance, one can see that it is a chain of Five Sequent Events starting by **foreknowing** and ending by **glorification**.

So, God foreknows, then He predestines, then He calls, then He justifies, then He glorifies. And these are not my words, they are Paul's whom I believe have been instructed personally by God during his three years of stay in Arabia which is a region in the north of the present Arab peninsula south of the Dead Sea (Gal. 1:17,18). Not only that, but Paul himself states that God worked effectively in him (Gal. 2:8).

What is more simple than that?

Dear reader,

I have explained the doctrine of predestination on solid factual scientific bases, which proves that God is not limited by the time frame which we know and live by, nor is He affected by the shadow of turning like we do.

I feel that this explains the subject quite well.

But I should warn you, that you may come across some literature by John Calvin or one of the Calvinists (his followers), please do not be deceived by their talks.

I do not like to repeat myself, but I have written an article about the myth of Calvinism which you may find on this same web site:

(www.oasisoflivingwater.org). You may find it useful, and my God bless you.