

PREDESTINATION- **A** **QUICK LOOK**

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New Beginnings

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Does God Really Harden People's Hearts?

The story about Moses and Pharaoh in Exodus is well known. Many people know that God hardened Pharaoh's heart so that he would not believe the miracles in order that God could manifest Himself to Israel and to Egypt by His miraculous deeds.

Romans 9:15-18

For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. [16] So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. [17] For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. [18] Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.

At first glance at the scriptures in Ex. 4 through the 14th chapter, it seems that God somehow picked out Pharaoh as an individual whose heart he would harden in order to make an example of him. The word of God seems to back it up and many people accept it at face value. This concept should cause us to ask a few questions.

First of all, if God desires that no one would perish, but that all would come to repentance, how could he deliberately make someone's heart so hard that they will not or cannot come to repentance? Secondly, if God has given man free will (which I believe He has), someone like Pharaoh did not have it nor have any choice in the matter. Thirdly, if God is the one who is choosing who gets saved and who gets hardened, what need is there for the gospel of grace? We are told to go and preach the gospel to all the world, but is that just some type of blanket coverage in order that all the predestined ones hear it? That type of thinking is contrary to the scriptural principles that I see.

There are some areas of scripture that will help us to see how all of this fits in with all other scriptural principles and makes sense in a simple way.

1. Scriptures concerning Pharaoh and the hardening of his heart.

Ex 4:21 AMP

21 And the Lord said to Moses, When you return into Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all those miracles and wonders which I have put in your hand; but I will make him stubborn and harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go.

Ex 7:3-5 NIV

3 But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my miraculous signs and wonders in Egypt, 4 he will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and with mighty acts of judgment I will bring out my divisions, my people the Israelites. 5 And the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out of it."

Ex 7:10-13 KJV

10 And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had

commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent.

11 Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.

12 For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.

13 And he hardened Pharaoh's heart, that he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.

Ex 7:22-23 TEV

22 Then the king's magicians did the same thing by means of their magic, and the king was as stubborn as ever. Just as the LORD had said, the king refused to listen to Moses and Aaron. 23 Instead, he turned and went back to his palace without paying any attention even to this.

Ex 8:16 NASU

15 But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

Ex 8:19 AMP

19 Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, This is the finger of God! But Pharaoh's heart was hardened and strong and he would not listen to them, just as the Lord had said.

Ex 9:34 AMP

34 But when Pharaoh saw that the rain, the hail, and the thunder had ceased, he sinned yet more, and toughened and stiffened his hard heart, he and his servants.

- These scriptures contain two ideas: 1) God hardened Pharaoh's heart 2) Pharaoh hardened his own heart.
- Let's look at the other examples in scripture and then come back to these to see if we can make clearer sense of it.

2. Micaiah speaks to Ahab.

1 Kings 22:19-23 KJV

19 And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left.

20 And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner.

21 And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him.

22 And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so.

23 Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee.

- Is God doing this or is he allowing it to happen?
- Did God do the different calamities to Job or did he allow them to happen?
- There is nothing that can take place without God being aware of it. Nothing sneaks

up on him. If he allows it to take place, is that wrong?

- God allows this lying spirit to speak through the false prophets. The next couple of verses will help to show how God does this, even in the New Testament.

2 Tim 4:3-4 KJV

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

- People will follow their own lusts and get teachers who will tell them what they want to hear instead of what they need to hear.

2 Thes. 2:8-12

And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: [9] Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, [10] And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

[11] And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: [12] That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

- This is exactly what took place in 1 Kings 22. Ahab did not want to believe the truth, so God allowed a deluding influence to lead him into falsehood.
- When people choose to not believe the truth, they are automatically choosing to believe a lie.
- Check out the history of God and the number of warnings, the amount of patience, the grace and kindness that he has extended to mankind before bringing punishment. God has and does give warnings to people, it just depends on if they are willing to listen to the truth.

3. Who caused David to number Israel?

2 Sam 24:1 KJV

1 And again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah.

1 Chron 21:1 KJV

1 And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.

- One verse says that God moved David to number Israel and the other verse says that Satan did it. Which one is right? Is there a discrepancy in the scriptures?
- I believe that God was angry at Israel. I also believe that David had either a fear of not knowing if he had the military power necessary to protect Israel (or something similar). God allowed Satan to tempt David in seeing how strong he was in military might rather than trusting the Lord as some of his Psalms indicate (Ps. 20:7 some trust in chariots...).
- Another perspective that could also be true is that the word Satan was not necessarily meaning the Devil. The word is also used as adversary and could indicate that an enemy came up and David got concerned about his military strength.

4. The sons of Eli.

1 Samuel 2:12-25

Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the Lord. [13] And the priest's custom with the people was, that, when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant came, while the flesh was in seething, with a fleshhook of three teeth in his hand; [14] And he struck it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the fleshhook brought up the priest took for himself. So they did in Shiloh unto all the Israelites that came thither. [15] Also before they burnt the fat, the priest's servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed, Give flesh to roast for the priest; for he will not have sodden flesh of thee, but raw. [16] And if any man said unto him, Let them not fail to burn the fat presently, and then take as much as thy soul desireth; then he would answer him, Nay; but thou shalt give it me now: and if not, I will take it by force. [17] Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the Lord: for men abhorred the offering of the Lord.

[18] But Samuel ministered before the Lord, being a child, girded with a linen ephod. [19] Moreover his mother made him a little coat, and brought it to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

[20] And Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife, and said, The Lord give thee seed of this woman for the loan which is lent to the Lord. And they went unto their own home. [21] And the Lord visited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the Lord.

[22] Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. [23] And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people. [24] Nay, my sons; for it is no good report that I hear: ye make the Lord's people to transgress. [25] If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the Lord, who shall intreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the Lord would slay them.

- This is not an arbitrary hardening of hearts. God was bringing judgment upon them for their very grievous sins. Just look in the scriptures and you will see God bringing serious judgment on people for lesser sins (man picking up sticks on the Sabbath).
- These two boys brought this on themselves by their sin.

5 It says that God shuts their heart and eyes. Is that so?

Isa 6:9-10 AMP

9 And He said, Go and tell this people, Hear and hear continually, but understand not; and see and see continually, but do not apprehend with your mind.

10 Make the heart of this people fat; and make their ears heavy and shut their eyes, lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their hearts and turn again and be healed.

- Will they not be able to hear because God selected them as people who would not be able to hear?

John 12:37-40 KJV

37 But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him:

38 That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?

39 Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again,

40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.

- They were seeing but not seeing. Again, was this because God said this group of people are chosen not to see or hear?
- **Romans 10:17-21** So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. [18] But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world. [19] But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you. [20] But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me. [21] But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.
- ‘Have they not heard?’, ‘Did not Israel know?’ Yes! God stretched out his hands unto a disobedient and stubborn people (Israel). They did not hear because they did not want to hear.

Matt 13:10-15 AMP

10 Then the disciples came to Him and said, Why do You speak to them in parables?

11 And He replied to them, To you it has been given to know the secrets and mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

12 For whoever has [spiritual knowledge], to him will more be given and he will be furnished richly so that he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

13 This is the reason that I speak to them in parables: because having the power of seeing, they do not see; and having the power of hearing, they do not hear, nor do they grasp and understand.

14 In them indeed is the process of fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah, which says: You shall indeed hear and hear but never grasp and understand; and you shall indeed look and look but never see and perceive.

15 For this nation's heart has grown gross (fat and dull), and their ears heavy and difficult of hearing, and their eyes they have tightly closed, lest they see and perceive with their eyes, and hear and comprehend the sense with their ears, and grasp and understand with their heart, and turn and I should heal them.

- Here is shows that they closed their eyes and their ears so that they would not understand and turn to the Lord. They wanted to walk their own way.
- Rom. 10:3 shows that they were ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to

establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves to the righteousness of God. They did not subordinate or subject themselves to the righteousness that God declared to be by faith.

Isa 63:7-19 NLT

7 I will tell of the LORD's unfailing love. I will praise the LORD for all he has done. I will rejoice in his great goodness to Israel, which he has granted according to his mercy and love. 8 He said, "They are my very own people. Surely they will not be false again." And he became their Savior. 9 In all their suffering he also suffered, and he personally rescued them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them. He lifted them up and carried them through all the years. 10 But they rebelled against him and grieved his Holy Spirit. That is why he became their enemy and fought against them. 11 Then they remembered those days of old when Moses led his people out of Egypt. They cried out, "Where is the one who brought Israel through the sea, with Moses as their shepherd? Where is the one who sent his Holy Spirit to be among his people? 12 Where is the one whose power divided the sea before them, when Moses lifted up his hand, establishing his reputation forever? 13 Where is the one who led them through the bottom of the sea? They were like fine stallions racing through the desert, never stumbling. 14 As with cattle going down into a peaceful valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. You led your people, LORD, and gained a magnificent reputation."

Prayer for Mercy and Pardon

15 LORD, look down from heaven and see us from your holy, glorious home. Where is the passion and the might you used to show on our behalf? Where are your mercy and compassion now? 16 Surely you are still our Father! Even if Abraham and Jacob would disown us, LORD, you would still be our Father. You are our Redeemer from ages past. 17 LORD, why have you allowed us to turn from your path? Why have you given us stubborn hearts so we no longer fear you? Return and help us, for we are your servants and your special possession. 18 How briefly your holy people possessed the holy place, and now our enemies have destroyed it. 19 LORD, why do you treat us as though we never belonged to you? Why do you act as though we had never been known as your people?

- He became their enemy and fought against them. Why? They rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit!
- Why did they have stubborn hearts? Why did they leave His paths? Was it because He willed it to be so?

Jer 5:20-25 TEV

21 Pay attention, you foolish and stupid people, who have eyes, but cannot see, and have ears, but cannot hear. 22 I am the LORD; why don't you fear me? Why don't you tremble before me? I placed the sand as the boundary of the sea, a permanent boundary that it cannot cross. The sea may toss, but it cannot go beyond it; the waves may roar, but they cannot break through. 23 But you people! You are stubborn and rebellious; you have turned aside and left me. 24 You never

thought to honor me, even though I send the autumn rains and the spring rains and give you the harvest season each year. 25 Instead, your sins have kept these good things from you.

- They had eyes but could not see. Why?
- They had turned aside and left Him in their rebellion and stubbornness.

Summary of this section.

1. Isaiah is told to make the heart of the people fat, their ears heavy, and to shut their eyes.
2. They saw the miracles that Jesus did but did not believe that the saying of Isaiah might be fulfilled. See Rom. 10:16-21 for another quotation of it.
3. Matt. 13 shows that they are the ones who shut their eyes and ears to his truth.
4. In Acts, Paul quotes the same verse from Isaiah and is starting to show them how their rejection and hardness of heart has caused the salvation of God to be sent to the Gentiles and they will hear it.
5. Children of Israel started wondering why they have gone off the path, why has God given them stubborn hearts, etc. It was because they had turned aside and left Him.

6. General History of God's dealings with his people.

Neh 9:16-18 NIV

16 "But they, our forefathers, became arrogant and stiff-necked, and did not obey your commands. 17 They refused to listen and failed to remember the miracles you performed among them. They became stiff-necked and in their rebellion appointed a leader in order to return to their slavery. But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Therefore you did not desert them, 18 even when they cast for themselves an image of a calf and said, 'This is your god, who brought you up out of Egypt,' or when they committed awful blasphemies.

Neh 9:26-31 NIV

26 "But they were disobedient and rebelled against you; they put your law behind their backs. They killed your prophets, who had admonished them in order to turn them back to you; they committed awful blasphemies. 27 So you handed them over to their enemies, who oppressed them. But when they were oppressed they cried out to you. From heaven you heard them, and in your great compassion you gave them deliverers, who rescued them from the hand of their enemies.

28 "But as soon as they were at rest, they again did what was evil in your sight. Then you abandoned them to the hand of their enemies so that they ruled over them. And when they cried out to you again, you heard from heaven, and in your compassion you delivered them time after time.

29 "You warned them to return to your law, but they became arrogant and disobeyed your commands. They sinned against your ordinances, by which a man will live if he obeys them. Stubbornly they turned their backs on you, became stiff-necked and refused to listen. 30 For many years you were patient with them. By your Spirit you admonished them through your prophets. Yet they paid no attention, so you handed them over to the neighboring peoples. 31 But in your

great mercy you did not put an end to them or abandon them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.

- They put his law behind their backs, killed the prophets, committed blasphemies, were stiff-necked, and refused to listen.
- The hardness in their lives was their own choice. In the general history of Israel, we see that at those times that they weren't serving God, they were serving idols, had false prophets, etc.
- Rejecting the truth to believe a lie.

Jer 7:25-29 NIV

25 From the time your forefathers left Egypt until now, day after day, again and again I sent you my servants the prophets. 26 But they did not listen to me or pay attention. They were stiff-necked and did more evil than their forefathers.'

27 "When you tell them all this, they will not listen to you; when you call to them, they will not answer. 28 Therefore say to them, 'This is the nation that has not obeyed the LORD its God or responded to correction. Truth has perished; it has vanished from their lips. 29 Cut off your hair and throw it away; take up a lament on the barren heights, for the LORD has rejected and abandoned this generation that is under his wrath.

- They haven't obeyed and have not responded to correction, the end result being that truth has perished from their lips.
- Prov. 29:1 says that if you are often reprov'd and harden your neck, you will be destroyed suddenly and without remedy.

Jer 19:15 KJV

15 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring upon this city and upon all her towns all the evil that I have pronounced against it, because they have hardened their necks, that they might not hear my words.

- In the earlier part of this chapter you will see that the children of Israel were worshiping Baal, offering incense to idols, offering their children as sacrifices.
- They had filled their heart with what they wanted and hardened their hearts to the truth.

7. Let's look at Exodus and Pharaoh.

- God said he would harden Pharaoh's heart.
- We see that Pharaoh's magicians imitate things that Aaron and Moses are doing. Pharaoh is not impressed and allows his heart to get harder.
- Pharaoh is so hardened in heart that by the time his magicians own up and say that 'this is the finger of God', he resists the counsel of his own men.
- When the plagues come and he gets Moses to stop them, he then refuses to do what he said because he feels the relief from the plague, and further hardens his heart.
- There is no desire in Pharaoh's heart for truth. He chooses to reject the truth and believe a lie. God then sends messages whether through the lying signs and wonders of the magicians or the lying signs and wonders of the Wicked one whose coming is after the working of Satan.
- Once you have hardened your heart to the truth, God will allow you to hear the things

that you want to hear, actually reinforcing the hardness of your heart.

- God hardened Pharaoh's heart by allowing lies from his magicians sway him, he chose to believe a lie, so God sent him a strong delusion that he should believe a lie.
- Having said that, is it God hardening the heart or the individual and his choices? God does step in, but again, we make the choice of believing or not believing the things we see and hear. It begins with us.
- This is also why it says in Matt. 13 that those who have will be given more, but to those who have not, even that which they have will be taken away. If you have some understanding of truth, he will give you more. If you don't have any understanding of truth, you will be like the one receiving seed by the way side, the wicked one will come and snatch away that which was sown in the heart.

8. One last consideration in Romans 9:22.

Rom 9:22 KJV

22 What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:

Rom 9:22 NASU

22 What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction?

Rom 9:22 TEV

22 And the same is true of what God has done. He wanted to show his anger and to make his power known. But he was very patient in enduring those who were the objects of his anger, who were doomed to destruction.

Rom 9:22 The New Testament: An Expanded Translation by Kenneth S. Wuest

22 But if, as is the case, God desiring to demonstrate His wrath and to make known His power, endured with much long-suffering instruments of wrath fitted for destruction,

- These translations make it seem like these vessels were prepared only for destruction. It seems like they had no choice, this is what the potter made them.
- This idea is not true. Some of the principles that we have already studied along with a few remaining notes will hopefully give you a clear idea about this verse.

The following deals with the word fitted in KJV Rom. 9:22

katartizo Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words NT:2675, "to make fit, to equip, prepare" (kata, "down," artos, "a joint"), is rendered "fitted" in Rom 9:22, of vessels of wrath; here the middle voice signifies that those referred to "fitted" themselves for destruction (as illustrated in the case of Pharaoh, the self-hardening of whose heart is accurately presented in the RV in the first part of the series of incidents in the Exodus narrative, which records Pharaoh's doings; only after repeated and persistent obstinacy on his part is it recorded that God hardened his heart.)

NT:2675 The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament

(II) Generally to prepare, set in order, constitute, only in the passive and middle (Rom 9:22) where the performance must be taken with the middle sense in that the vessels of

wrath, or the unsaved, fitted themselves unto destruction. They were not fitted for destruction by God.

Rom 9:22

Fitted kateertismena. Literally, "adjusted." See the note on "mending," Matt 4:21; "perfect," Matt 21:16; Luke 6:40; 1 Peter 5:10. Not "fitted by God for destruction," but in an adjectival sense, "ready, ripe" for destruction, the participle denoting a present state previously formed, but giving no hint of "how" it has been formed. An agency of some kind must be assumed. That the objects of final wrath had themselves a hand in the matter may be seen from 1 Thess 2:15-16. That the hand of God is also operative may be inferred from the whole drift of the chapter. "The apostle has probably chosen this form because the being ready certainly arises from a continual reciprocal action between human sin and the divine judgment of blindness and hardness. Every development of sin is a net-work of human offences and divine judgments" (Lange).

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1 Thes. 2:15-16

Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men: [16] Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.

I do not believe that people are predestined to salvation or damnation. As we go over the teachings on Calling, Election, and some verses from the New Testament, you will begin to see a clearer picture of why salvation is open to all, but all are not willing to receive it.

God does predetermine certain things but he never violates the free will of man. He does not predetermine who will be saved and who will be damned. In his foreknowledge he knows who will be saved and damned, otherwise he wouldn't be all knowing, but he chooses to use other things that will influence the heart of man to believe or to believe a lie. He uses the truth to penetrate the heart of man and for those who refuse to hear the truth but choose to believe a lie he allows delusion and lies to come to them.

CLARIFYING WHAT THE CALL IS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

2 Peter 1:8-11 NIV

8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

10 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your *calling and election* sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, 11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- By adding the things mentioned in verses 5-7 to our faith, we will make our calling and election sure. If our calling and election are not totally sure, is there really a predestination of believers?

The definition of the word calling:

CALL, CALLED, CALLING

NT:2821 klesis, "a calling" (akin to A, No. 1), is always used in the NT of that "calling" the origin, nature and destiny of which are heavenly (the idea of invitation being implied); it is used especially of God's invitation to man to accept the benefits of salvation,

(from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, Copyright (c)1985, Thomas Nelson Publishers)

NT:2821

In the N.T. everywhere in a technical sense, the divine invitation to embrace salvation in the kingdom of God, which is made especially through the preaching of the gospel:

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So what is this calling? (Not all the words call are no. 2821)

2 Thess 1:8-12 NIV

8 He will punish those who do not know God and *do not obey the gospel* of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power 10 on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because *you believed our testimony* to you. 11 With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you *worthy of his calling*, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith.

- The calling came through the gospel that was preached to them. It was through the message of the grace of God given in Christ that was the calling.

2 Thess 2:13-15 NIV

13 But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord,

because from the beginning God chose *you to be saved* through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. 14 He *called you to this through our gospel*, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Consider carefully what is being said about God choosing you to be saved. He chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.
- God calls us through the gospel of the grace of Christ.

Gal 1:6-7 TEV

6 I am surprised at you! In no time at all you are deserting the one who *called you by the grace of Christ*, and are accepting another gospel. 7 Actually, there is no "other gospel," but I say this because there are some people who are upsetting you and trying to change the gospel of Christ.

- If we have ears to hear the message of the grace of Christ, we will be hearing God calling us into relationship with Him!

2 Tim 1:9-10 NKJV

9 who has saved us and *called us with a holy calling*, not according to our works, but according to His *own purpose and grace* which was *given to us in Christ Jesus before time began*, 10 but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

- We were called, not for what we had accomplished (Jesus died for us while we were yet sinners-Rom. 5:8), but according to his own purpose and the grace that he gave to us in Christ before time began. That grace is found in Christ, he is the lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8). It is available to those who hear his call.

Summary of this section

1. God's call goes out to the whole world. The gospel of Christ is to reach into every tongue, tribe, and nation.
2. Not everyone will respond to this 'call' of God. Matt. 22:14 says that many are called, but few are chosen. Matt. 13:14-15 speaks of the people who were hearing and not understanding, seeing and yet not perceiving. It is possible to hear the message of grace and yet not hear it if our heart has grown calloused because of our thoughts and activities. It is not God's fault that we do not hear, it is that we have closed our own eyes because we do not want to see and acknowledge the truth of God.
3. The call to mankind comes through the gospel of Christ, the gospel that shows the riches of the grace of God.
4. After we have heard and responded to the call of God, we can make our calling sure, steadfast, even to the point where scripture says that we will never fall, if we are doing the things mentioned in that portion of scripture. We have done nothing to earn this grace, it is a gift of God, but it is not a stagnant grace. It is a grace that is causing us to change into His image on a regular and daily basis. He determined that whoever responds to his call should be conformed to the image of his son.

CLARIFYING WHAT ELECTION MEANS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

2 Peter 1:8-11 NIV

8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

10 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your *calling and election* sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, 11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- By adding the things mentioned in verses 5-7 to our faith, we will make our calling and election sure. If our calling and election are not totally sure, is there really a predestination of believers?
- The calling comes from the gospel and after we have believed and responded to the calling, we become the chosen of the father.

The definition of the words elect, elected, election:

Strong's

1589; from 1586; (divine) *selection* (abstractly or concretely):-chosen, election.

Thayer Definition:

- 1) the act of picking out, choosing
 - 1a) of the act of God's free will by which before the foundation of the world he decreed his blessings to certain persons
 - 1b) the decree made from choice by which he determined to bless certain persons through Christ by grace alone
- 2) a thing or person chosen
 - 2a) of persons: God's elect

Concise Greek-English Dictionary of N.T.

feminine *election, choosing; what is selected or chosen*

How is this word election used? (Grk. Word 1589)

Acts 9:15-16 NKJV

15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a *chosen* vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."

- Paul was chosen by God to do a particular work, especially with the Gentiles.

Rom 9:11-12 NIV

11 Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad-in order that God's purpose in *election* might stand: 12 not by works but by him who calls-she was told, "The older will serve the younger."

- God's purpose always stands upon his choice, not the works, merits, or desires of

men. The twins were not even born when God made the choice. As you read this story in the Old Testament, you will see that he was making a choice between two nations, not the salvation of individuals.

- The next passage adds a little more clarity about his choice.

Rom 11:5-6 NIV

5 So too, at the present time there is a remnant *chosen* by grace. 6 And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

- As you read the context of Romans 9-11, you will see that the election of grace (KJV), is the fact that God extended his grace, and those who perceived it and believed it, received it! The others chose not to believe that it could be given to us by God, and they tried to earn it through their works and stumbled at the rock of offence, Jesus Christ. All of the truths in this book of Romans need to be weighed together in the light of how faith, grace, election, calling, and predestination function to accomplish the purpose of God. This purpose was hidden for ages but has now been revealed through his son, Jesus Christ (Rom. 16:25-27; Eph. 1:9; Eph. 3:4-6; Col. 1:25-29).
- These Jews who were chosen by grace are the ones who heard the calling of the gospel of the grace of Christ and responded to it. They became the elect or chosen because they believed the way in which God choose to save them.

Rom 11:7-8 NIV

7 What then? What Israel sought so earnestly it did not obtain, but the *elect* did. The others were hardened, 8 as it is written: "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes so that they could not see and ears so that they could not hear, to this very day."

- The chosen ones did obtain it. This includes both the Jews and the Gentiles as seen in Rom. 9:24. It means those who have responded to God's choice of extending grace to mankind that does not deserve it. Their response is that they believe and then obey it. Belief or faith, is our only response to what God has done. He has accomplished all the necessary things for our redemption, forgiveness of sins, newness of life, the Holy Spirit, righteousness, etc. He is the one who arranged it all and through his son, Jesus Christ, gives it to us by his grace (Rom. 3:24; Acts 20:24; Rom. 5:2; Gal. 1:5; Eph. 2:8).

Rom 11:28-30 NIV

28 As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies on your account; but as far as *election* is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, 29 for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.

- **Deut 10:15 TEV** 15 But the LORD's love for your ancestors was so strong that he chose you instead of any other people, and you are still his chosen people. **Deut 4:37-38 TEV** 37 Because he loved your ancestors, he chose you, and by his great power he himself brought you out of Egypt.
- **Rom 9:4-5 NASU** 4 who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises, 5 whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh,

who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

- **Rom 11:16 NASU** 16 If the first piece of dough is holy, the lump is also; and if the root is holy, the branches are too.
- God's election of Abraham and his seed is without repentance, though some have been lopped off the tree because of unbelief, they may still be grafted in if they believe. They are enemies of the gospel, but God's election of Abraham and his seed is still valid to those who will believe.

1 Thess 1:3-7 TEV

4 Our brothers, we know that God loves you and has *chosen* you to be his own. 5 For we brought the Good News to you, not with words only, but also with power and the Holy Spirit, and with complete conviction of its truth. You know how we lived when we were with you; it was for your own good. 6 You imitated us and the Lord; and even though you suffered much, you received the message with the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit.

- How did Paul know that the Thessalonians were chosen by God? Because the people received the message of the gospel that came in the power of the Holy Spirit and in its convicting truth. They themselves imitated the life of Paul and Jesus.
- Again, I see the choice that God makes is to bring the message of grace in Christ and he accepts or chooses those that receive that grace.

Summary of this section

1. God chooses people to do certain things: Peter brought the gospel to the Gentiles initially, Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles, and in Acts 13:2 the Holy Spirit separated Paul and Barnabas for a particular work.
2. God's choice is not determined by the works or merits of men. As we look closely at the word of God, we will see that it is God extending his grace to those who will believe it or receive it. It is Him choosing to do something, not man desiring it to happen.
3. God chose the patriarchs because of his love for them. There are no clear answers for why he loved them other than he chose to love them. (We see that Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord-he was one who believed God when he spoke of the coming flood and responded to that word, and in Abraham we see a man of faith and one whom the Lord said will command his children and household after him, and they would keep the way of the Lord-to do justice and judgment.)
4. God's election as it pertains to us is seen as Him choosing to extend his grace through Jesus Christ. This grace is made available to all who accept him. The gospel message is the gospel of the grace of Christ. Not all will receive his grace, but it is made available to all so that none should perish, but that all would come to repentance and acknowledgement of the truth.
5. Those who accept God's way of grace, found in Christ, now become the chosen or elect of God.

Predestination In The New Testament

There are six scripture verses in the N.T. that are the primary scriptures used to teach about predestination. They are:

1. Acts 4:28 KJV

28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel **determined before** to be done.

Acts 4:28 AMP

28 To carry out all that Your hand and Your will and purpose had predestined (predetermined) should occur.

2. Rom 8:28-30 KJV

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.

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did **predestinate** to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did **predestinate**, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Rom 8:28-30 NASU

28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

3. Eph 1:3-6 KJV

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:

4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

5 Having **predestinated** us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Eph 1:3-6 NLT

3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.

4 Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.

5 God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

6 So we praise God for the glorious grace he as poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.

Eph 1:3-6 NRSV

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5 He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

4. Eph 1:10-12 KJV

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:

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:

12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

Eph 1:11-12 NKJV

11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

Eph 1:10-12 NASU

In Him 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, 12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

5. 1 Cor 2:7 KJV

7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God **ordained** before the world unto our glory:

1 Cor 2:7 NASU

7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory;

1 Cor 2:7 TEV

7 The wisdom I proclaim is God's secret wisdom, which is hidden from mankind, but which he had already chosen for our glory even before the world was made.

Note: This next verse does not contain the word predestinate but is used by some to show that God did predetermine individuals to salvation.

6. 1 Peter 1:2 KJV

2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

- The high-lighted words in the KJV are the words that are translated from the Greek

word 'proorizo'.

The definition of Proorizo, excerpts taken from the following references:

NT:4309 proorizoo: to predetermine, decide beforehand, to foreordain: in the N.T. of God decreeing from eternity, Acts 4:28;
(from Thayer's Greek Lexicon, Electronic Database. Copyright © 2000, 2003 by Biblesoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)

NT:4309 proori/zw proaire/omai: to come to a decision beforehand - 'to decide beforehand, to determine ahead of time, to decide upon ahead of time.' proori/zw proori/sa 'he had already decided that through Jesus Christ he would bring us to himself as his sons' Eph 1:5; 'those whom he decided upon ahead of time, these he called' Rom 8:30; 'each person (should give) in the way he has decided beforehand in his heart (to do)' 2 Cor 9:7.
(from Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain. Copyright (c) 1988 United Bible Societies, New York. Used by permission.)

Proorizoo:

1 aorist proorisa;

1 aorist passive participle prooristhentes;

to predetermine, decide beforehand, Vulgate (except in Acts) praedestino (the English Revised Version's (1881) to foreordain): in the N.T. of God decreeing from eternity, followed by an accusative with the infinitive Acts 4:28;

ti, with the addition of pro toon aionoon 1 Cor 2:7;

tina, with a predicate accusative, to foreordain, appoint beforehand, Rom 8:29 f;

tina eis ti, one to obtain a thing, Eph 1:5;

prooristhentes namely, klerootheenai, Eph 1:11.

(Heliodorus (390 A.D.?) and ecclesiastical writings. (Ignatius (circa 110 A.D.) ad Eph. tit.)) * (from Thayer's Greek Lexicon, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 2000 by Biblesoft)

proorizo NT:4309, pro, "beforehand," and No. 2, denotes "to mark out beforehand, to determine before, foreordain"; in Acts 4:28, KJV, "determined before," RV, "foreordained"; so the RV in 1 Cor 2:7, KJV, "ordained", in Rom 8:29-30 and Eph 1:5,11, KJV, "predestinate," RV, "foreordain."

(from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, Copyright (c)1985, Thomas Nelson Publishers)

Examination of each scripture to determine what is predestined.

1. Acts 4:28

For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

- God had determined beforehand that Christ should suffer and die. Acts 2:23 says that Jesus was delivered by the determined plan and foreknowledge of God. Acts 3:18 says that God showed these things by the mouth of his prophets and has now fulfilled them. Rev. 13:8 even calls Jesus the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.
- This scripture clearly is speaking about God's plan of redemption through his Son.

God determined that this was the only way to meet the requirements of his judgment, justice, penalty of sin, and more. This scripture has nothing to say about us being predestinated for salvation or damnation. God determined that this was how salvation and reconciliation were going to take place.

2. Rom. 8:28-30 NIV

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

- There are several words that must be looked at in order to see what this scripture is saying:
 - a) Called according to his purpose
 - b) whom he foreknew
 - c) he did predestinate

A) Called according to his purpose:

Rom 9:10-11 NASU

11 for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to His choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls,

- *God's purpose is according to his choice*, not men's desires or works.

Purposed in Himself

Eph 1:9 NKJV

9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

- He made known to us the mystery of his will, his plan, according to the kind intention that he purposed in Himself to do. *He purposed to gather all things in Christ* as Eph 1:10 shows.

It's His purpose.

Eph 1:11-12 NRSV

11 In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, 12 so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.

- His purposes are accomplished according to His own counsel and will. Part of the purpose revealed here is that He determined ahead of time that those who trust in His son should be to the praise of His glory. This verse speaks the same truth as in Rom. 8:28-30.
- We will take a closer look at this when we cover this particular verse.

The timeless purpose of God is achieved in Christ.

Ephes. 3:9-11

And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: [10] To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, [11]

According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

Eph 3:9-11 AMP

9 Also to enlighten all men and make plain to them what is the plan [regarding the Gentiles and providing for the salvation of all men] of the mystery kept hidden through the ages and concealed until now in [the mind of] God Who created all things by Christ Jesus.

10 [The purpose is] that through the church the complicated, many-sided wisdom of God in all its infinite variety and innumerable aspects might now be made known to the angelic rulers and authorities (principalities and powers) in the heavenly sphere.

11 This is in accordance with the terms of the eternal and timeless purpose which He has realized and carried into effect in [the person of] Christ Jesus our Lord,

- In **Eph. 3:9**, KJV has the word fellowship (koinonia), but many of the other texts use the word 'oikonomia' which means stewardship or dispensation. **Note:** A "dispensation" is not a period or epoch (a common, but erroneous, use of the word), but a mode of dealing, an arrangement or administration of affairs. Cf. oikonomos, "a steward," and oikonomeo, "to be a steward." (from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, Copyright (c)1985, Thomas Nelson Publishers). Paul is saying that through the grace given to him, he is making all men see the administration of this hidden mystery. He was given grace to show how it all works and he is explaining it to us.
- Paul had been given a grace to understand and to minister the revelation that was hidden for ages. The Gentiles were to be partakers of God's promise in Christ by the gospel, fellow-heirs, and of the same body. Paul was to preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; and to make all men see or understand God's way of dealing through this mystery. Why would God want Paul to make these things clear to all men? So that the principalities and powers in the heavens would see the many-sided grace of God made known through the church. (Rom 11:33-36 TEV How great are God's riches! How deep are his wisdom and knowledge! Who can explain his decisions? Who can understand his ways? 34 As the scripture says, "Who knows the mind of the Lord? Who is able to give him advice? 35 Who has ever given him anything, so that he had to pay it back?" 36 For all things were created by him, and all things exist through him and for him. To God be the glory forever! Amen.) God's wisdom is brought to light to men and angels as he wants to reveal it!
- **Christ is the center point of God's purpose.** Jesus was the lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8). In his ability to draw both Jews and Gentiles, removing the barrier between them, reconciling both, and making them all one body, we see Jesus fulfilling the will of the Father (Eph. 1:9-10).

God's purpose and grace are given to us in Christ Jesus.

2 Tim 1:9 NASU

- 9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,
- ***It is in Christ that the purpose of God is fulfilled and the grace of God is given to us.*** It was given to us in Him before the world began. Is this not saying that the means were given in Christ, not that some were selected above others?

Q. So what does it mean to be called according to his purpose?

A. ***The gospel of the grace of Christ is the call. Anyone who hears, believes, and responds is called according to his purpose.*** As we have seen from the scriptures above, God purposed before the foundation of the world that his son should bring redemption to Jews and Gentiles, make them one body, and that all things would be gathered together in Christ. Our response to His call makes us his chosen. His purpose is in Christ, so as we come to Christ and put on Christ, we are fulfilling His purpose.

B) Whom He did foreknow? What is foreknowledge?

Definition of foreknowledge, excerpts from the following references:

NT:4267 proginooskoo;

to have knowledge of beforehand; to foreknow: namely, tauta, 2 Peter 3:17 (from Thayer's Greek Lexicon, Electronic Database. Copyright © 2000, 2003 by BibleSoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)

NT:4267 proginw/skwpro/gnwsiproora/w: to know about something prior to some temporal reference point, for example, to know about an event before it happens - 'to know beforehand, to know already, to have foreknowledge.'
(from Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain. Copyright (c) 1988 United Bible Societies, New York. Used by permission.)

NT:4267 to know beforehand," is used (a) of the divine "foreknowledge" concerning believers, Rom 8:29; Israel, 11:2; Christ as the Lamb of God, 1 Peter 1:20, RV, "foreknown" (KJV, "foreordained"); (b) of human previous "knowledge," of a person, Acts 26:5, RV, "having knowledge of" (KJV, "which knew"); of facts, 2 Peter 3:17. See FOREKNOW.
(from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, Copyright (c)1985, Thomas Nelson Publishers)

Rom 11:2 NIV

- 2 God did not reject his people, whom he **foreknew**.
- God knew that there were Jews who would be believers.
 - If God did not know beforehand that there would be people who would believe Him, why in the world would he have made a plan to gather together all things in Christ? He knew which ones would stay true to Him in Elijah's time as well as which ones would believe him in Paul's time.
 - Foreknowledge is not necessarily the same as being foreordained or predestined. Each of us has to make a decision about what we will do with the truth of God expressed in

His son, Jesus. They are not all Israel, who are of Israel, the children of the promise are counted as his seed. It is to those who believe and receive the promise that God gives who are the true Israel of God. He knows which ones are his both of the Jews and of the Gentiles. If God did not know what the future involved, He would not be all knowing, would He? He knows the future and He knows what responses we will make, but He does not make us do them as robots. He will use truth, circumstances, miracles, and whatever else it takes to help us see His way, but He will not make us do it, you have a choice.

- Q.** What does it mean in Rom. 8:29 when it says whom he did foreknow he did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His son?
- A.** It means that God knew ahead of time which ones would believe on His son and those who believed should become like his Son.

C). What does it mean that they are predestinated to be conformed to his image?

Definition of predestinate as given on page three NT:4309 proorizoo.

proorizo NT:4309:

Note: This verb is to be distinguished from proginosko, "to foreknow"; the latter has special reference to the persons foreknown by God; proorizo has special reference to that to which the subjects of His foreknowledge are "predestinated." (from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, Copyright (c)1985, Thomas Nelson Publishers)

Q. In **Rom. 8:29-30**, who is predestinated and to what are they predestinated?

A. Those who are called according to his purpose, the ones he foreknew, are the ones who are predestinated. The calling comes from the gospel which is God's choice or his way and those who respond to his truth and grace have now become the elect or chosen (we are chosen in Christ to become his children). They are predestinated to become like Jesus if they responded to the call of God. God has predetermined that anyone who comes to his son should become like him. This is what he decided ahead of time, and that is why we are called new creations and why we are to 'put on' Christ. Again, there is no predetermination of who will be saved and who will not.

3. Ephes. 1:3-6

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: [4] According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: [5] Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, [6] To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

- We are chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him, not that we should be saved or unsaved. This sounds like Rom. 8:28-30, whom he did foreknow, he predetermined that they should be like Jesus.
- God predetermined that we would be adopted as children through Jesus Christ to

himself (can we say that He predetermined the method or means to accomplish His plan?). The grace to do this was given us in Christ before the beginning of time, as the next bullet will show. This is not about predestination for us but rather God's predetermining how His plan to redeem mankind would be worked out.

- **2 Tim 1:9-11 NIV** "who has saved us and called us to a holy life — not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, 10 but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." God purposed before the foundation of the world that His grace in and through Christ Jesus would be given to us who respond to his truth. We were not chosen to salvation or condemnation.

4. Ephes. 1:9-12

Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: [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: [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: [12] That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

- We were predetermined, according to His purpose, that we should be to the praise of His glory. The way we do that is by coming to Christ and becoming like Christ.
- The following verses help illustrate why we should be to the praise of His glory:
Romans 8:3-4 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: [4] That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
Galatians 1:4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:
Titus 2:11-12 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, [12] Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;
- He has set us free from the power of sin, by judging sin in His own flesh, delivering us from this present evil world, and He is teaching us how to live godly lives. We could never live the type of life that God desires without the grace of Christ in our lives. When we do live it, we bring praise to God!
- Again, this sounds like Rom. 8:28-30.

5. 1 Cor. 2:7

But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

1 Cor 2:7 Weymouth

7 But in dealing with truths hitherto kept secret we speak of God's wisdom--that hidden wisdom which, before the world began, God pre-destined, so that it should result in glory to us;

- Paul was speaking of the hidden wisdom that God predetermined before the world began, that would result in glory for us. So what was Paul speaking? 1 Cor. 2:2 shows very clearly that he was determined to know nothing among them, except Jesus Christ and Him crucified!
- The predetermined wisdom of God had to do with Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

Let us compare the main gist of these five portions of scripture:

1. **Acts 4:28** is speaking of God's plan of redemption through his Son that He determined ahead of time.
 2. **Rom. 8:28-30** They are predestinated to become like Jesus if they responded to the call of God.
 3. **Eph. 1:3-6** We are chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him, not that we should be saved or unsaved.
 4. **Eph. 1:10-12** We were predetermined, according to His purpose, that we should be to the praise of His glory.
 5. **1 Cor. 2:7** The predetermined wisdom of God had to do with Jesus Christ and Him crucified.
- Two of these point to God predetermining the way that He would accomplish redemption, which is by the grace of God through Christ.
 - The other three point to the fact that He has determined ahead of time that those who respond to His grace will become like His son Jesus..
 - So far, we have found nothing to indicate that God is predetermining anyone to salvation or damnation.

Let's look at the final portion:

6. 1 Peter 1:2

- Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.
- The lessons on calling and election in the appendix show that God calls us through the gospel and those who respond to His call become the elect or chosen ones. We are the chosen ones because we have responded to God's chosen way of redeeming us. We are not choice individuals by ourselves.
 - As earlier in the notes, in Rom. 11:2, the foreknowledge of God is not predestinating, it is Him knowing ahead of time who will respond to Him.
 - This verse says that we are chosen, according to the foreknowledge of God, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Christ. To make this verse even simpler, "We are chosen through sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience...".
 - This verse is speaking of the means or ways of accomplishing his purpose.
 - This verse says basically the same thing:

2 Thess 2:13

13 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:

2 Thess 2:13-15 NIV

13 But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. 14 He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1

- **2 Thess. 2:13** has all the components that we have been looking at rolled into one verse. From the beginning, God had a plan to save you by calling you by the gospel, if you believed the truth you would receive His Spirit, and you would be made a partaker in the inheritance of Christ.
- The NIV says it clearly and properly. God chose that salvation would come through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and belief in the truth. It is the means.

Questions to ponder.

- Have we found anything that resembles predestination for salvation or damnation?
- Haven't all of the scriptures pointed to the plan of God being determined from the beginning of time?
- Haven't they all had to do with Christ as the focus, the means of accomplishing this plan of God?
- Haven't they shown how God in His grace will allow us to be adopted as His children and be partakers of the inheritance of Christ and His glory, and that our lives as His children will bring Him glory?