

Simple Foreknowledge Proves Predestination

by Dale Brown

I **preface this brief summary** by saying that I will endeavor to present these truths (as I am enabled) as well as I know how. I believe that his Grace is all sufficient and that if it be HIS will, I pray that something may be gleaned from it. The subject of Predestination is one that scares some, and emboldens others. It will edify some and enrage others. It can be a source of comfort for some, and can take others right out of their comfort zone.

Predestination is clearly a Bible doctrine. Now, some will immediately object and declare that the term only appears in the King James Bible four times, and they are right! Well, kind of. Let me explain: First, the word **Predestination** to my knowledge does NOT appear at all. Here is what most opponents speak of, though:

the word **predestinate** appears twice:

1. Romans 8:29 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.

2. Romans 8:30 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.

the word **predestinated** appears twice:

1. Ephesians 1:5 Having **predestinated** us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

2. Ephesians 1:11 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:

To this end, the opponents declare that predestination is not a Bible doctrine. Others who are willing to admit that it is in fact taught in the Bible will only concede to a "Limited Predestination," thereby limiting how much Sovereignty Jehovah actually exercises over the affairs of this low ground of sin and sorrow and his subjects therein.

Even though the statement about the four occurrences is true, they are not, by any means, the only places that the doctrine of Predestination is taught. Nor are they the only places that have words that mean "Predestination."

Within the pages of Holy Writ there are many words and phrases used to express this great doctrine. Some of the words might include "God hath before ordained," "ordained," "Before of old ordained," "Election," "Written before the foundation of the world," "appointed," "foreknowledge," etc.

DIVINE ATTRIBUTES

The first place to start would be to examine the attributes of God. Although the Great I Am has many wonderful attributes I believe that there are four that will support all the others. Those four are as follows:

1. **God's Omniscience:** This simply means that God knows EVERYTHING that there is to know, PERIOD. He cannot learn more tomorrow than he knows today. If he can learn as time progresses, then there was a time when he had less than perfect knowledge, and by default he wasn't always omniscient. That is terrible blasphemy and WE KNOW that is untrue. Therefore, GOD KNOWS ALL, PERIOD.

2. **God's Omnipresence:** Again, this simply means that God is all present; in other words, HE IS EVERYWHERE AT ALL TIMES, PAST, PRESENT or FUTURE. God created time. It is one of his creations. He lives outside of time. Humans are slaves to time, and are bound by it, but God is in no way bound by time. The Garden of Eden, the Exodus, the crucifixion, the present day, and yes, even the future is right before him. He does not have to race

back in time to observe history, neither does he have to look forward in order to see time. GOD is outside of time. Past, present and future are all present to him. Therefore, GOD is everywhere at all times in all ages.

3. God's Omnipotence: This attribute means that he is ALL powerful. Nothing is more powerful than He. Nothing can thwart His purpose. Nothing is stronger than He. Everything is beneath him. Everything is in his control. Nothing ever happens that he does not allow or suffer to happen. If one little event escaped His attention or control, then he would not be Omnipotent. AND WE KNOW THAT IS NOT THE CASE. Therefore, God is ALL powerful, nothing can stop Him, and nothing slips by Him, and nothing happens that is not part of his Divine unswerving purpose. God does not have to drop back and punt, nor does he have to resort to a plan "b."

4. God's Immutability: The Immutability of God means that he never changes. He is always the same. Through the eons of time he has never changed. He has never grown old. He has never changed his mind. What he purposed yesterday is still the same purpose today. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever more.

He has an unswerving purpose that has never been altered or changed by man, angels, devils, or beasts. His counsel is eternal. As he thought, at the same time he purposed. And at the same time he purposed a thing, it has surely come to pass EXACTLY as He purposed. There is no introspection with God. God does not "bounce an idea around in his head" or even "consider" a thought. His knowledge is perfect. There are no guesses with God. There are no conjectures with God. Because God KNOWS ALL, he cannot Change and has no reason to. He is perfect in all his ways, PERIOD.

THE ETERNAL COVENANT

Long, long, long ago, before there ever was a material universe, before there ever were any elements, before an angel's wing ever moved in the ethereal, God was alone with his thought. God's eternal thought is still unfolding today, humanly speaking. Yet it is ALL present to him. Nothing is hidden from him. Everything is naked before his ALL seeing eye.

God the Father, God the Spirit, and God the Son made a covenant concerning mankind before there was a single human created. This Covenant is often referred to as the "Eternal Covenant" or the "Everlasting Covenant." God the Father agreed to save a vast number of human rebels that no man can number and give them to God the Son. God the Son agreed to purchase them in time on Calvary and fellowship with them in Eternity. Christ would be the firstborn among many brethren. So, God the Son, would be the propitiation for the elect's transgressions against The Godhead. He would actually completely satisfy their sin debt in time on the cross. And in turn, God the Spirit agreed to quicken and draw them into a living vital union with the Son as well as lead and comfort the elect in this plane we call "time."

This Eternal Covenant between the three aspects of the Godhead took place BEFORE THERE WAS EVER A HUMAN CREATED. BEFORE THERE WAS EVEN AN EARTH.

Those whom God chose to redeem, the Bible calls the elect. Before the world was ever made, God wrote all the names of the elect in the Lamb's Book of Life.

So without going any farther, one can easily see that, in order for this Covenant to come to pass, certain events must eventually take place in time, such as:

1. Creation
2. Entrance of the Serpent in the Garden of Eden
3. Temptation
4. Actual transgression against God's one command
5. The fall of Adam resulting in spiritual death at that moment, and then physical death later as a result

If THOSE things had not happened, then there would have never been THESE things:

1. Salvation from Sin
2. Jesus being born in time to walk the earth and teach man the things of God
3. The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus
4. Christ's Victory over death, hell, and the grave
5. The ultimate Glorification of Christ himself

So, therefore, the Fall of man was a necessary component in the Eternal Covenant of the Godhead.

This does NOT make God the author of sin. Rather, God is the first cause of all causes and God's purpose from the beginning is to Glorify Himself through JESUS CHRIST. He is the potter; we are the clay. We have no right to question this, because:

"...all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?"
(Daniel 4:35)

"The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand." (Isaiah 14:24)

"I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him. That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past." (Ecclesiastes 3:14-15)

Because:

"For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." (1 John 3:8)

Why was the son of God manifested? Answer: That he might destroy the works of the devil.

How can there be works of the devil to destroy if sin had not entered into

the world? Had sin not entered into the world then there would be no purpose for Christ to manifest himself. There would be no death and Hell to have victory over. And, there would be no enemies for Christ to crush beneath his feet on the Day of the Lord.

The works of the devil will one day provide a dark backdrop to the brightness of the second advent of Jesus Christ. Just as a luminous diamond glistens in contrast to the black velvet cloth on which it is laid, so too will Christ shine in all his Glory against the backdrop of the works of the devil in the day of the LORD.

"The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil." (Proverbs 16:4)

"Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy." (Isaiah 44:12)

To Deny Absolute predestination is to deny Christ ALL the glory that is due only him!

If this somehow angers or enrages the flesh, listen to Scripture:

Christ said: "Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?" (Matthew 20:15)

"What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. 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. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. 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. Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth. Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will? Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not

the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?" (Romans 9:14-21)

Yes, the Eternal Covenant is indeed a deep counsel of God, far beyond human understanding. But, the Lord has revealed many things to those He has given eyes to see because:

"The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law." (Deuteronomy 29:29)

This brings us to the subject matter at hand: Simple Foreknowledge proves Predestination.

If we refer back to the four attributes of God (pages 2-3, above), which surely no one but an infidel would deny, we see that:

1. God Knows Everything
2. God is everywhere at all times: past, present, or future.
3. God is ALL powerful.
4. God never changes.

Those who deny Absolute predestination will say that God's foreknowledge is the key. Foreknowledge is a biblical concept. They say God simply looked into the future to see what would come to pass, and then planned history around it. The one glaring problem with this theory is that they say God looked into the future to learn something. Blasphemy! God cannot learn ANYTHING because God is already perfect in knowledge.

It is absolutely vital to make a crucial distinction at this point: These truths presented thus far, are in NO WAY intended to imply that God's mere prescience or foresight determined whatsoever cometh to pass. This devilish manmade theory would make the Great I AM a student and man the teacher. Yes, this man-honoring system would have the creature as the director of history, and the Creator as the recipient of knowledge who must constantly change his purpose to accommodate the fickle tastes and

decisions of man. This doctrine reduces our LORD to nothing more than a figurehead in Heaven who has a will, but possesses no real power to bring his will to pass.

This is truly a doctrine of devils. But yet, this is precisely what all Arminian freewill systems embrace.

No, God did NOT look into the future to look and learn what man's "free will" decisions would be, and then plan history around them. But rather, God is the first cause of all causes, "Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it." (Isaiah 46:10-11)

Notice the above scripture declares that it is GOD's counsel, and that God will be the one to cause both man and beast alike to bring to pass all of God's pleasure.

No, He didn't look and learn. It's something MUCH, MUCH deeper than that, and it is centered around his eternal purpose which is unswerving and cannot be thwarted by man.

Regarding predestination, let's look at a few examples:

"For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done." (Acts 4:27-28)

So Herod, and Pontius Pilate with the gentiles, and the people of Israel were gathered together to do what? Answer: to do whatsoever God's hand and His counsel determined before to be done; predestination, plain and simple!

Again:

"Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain" (Acts 2:23)

Jesus was delivered by the determinate counsel AND foreknowledge of God. You see here that the determinate counsel AND foreknowledge of God work hand in glove. They are closely linked but ARE NOT the same! PREDESTINATION! And this predestination clearly involved wicked hands and a truly wicked act!

Jesus many times told the Jews and Romans that they would have NO POWER over him AT ALL unless it were given unto them. Who gave it to them? I think we surely recognize that God Almighty did! Jesus' crucifixion was predestinated before the world began and evil men unknowingly played a part in it. They were driven by lust, greed, anger, and jealousy but God meant it for good. God was NOT the author of their sin, but rather the director of all the history of mankind, including this occasion.

"The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will." (Proverbs 21:1)

Another example is Joseph of the Old Testament. Joseph was thrown into a pit by his brothers and then sold into slavery. This was truly an evil act! Later, Joseph became affluent in Egypt and had considerable power. Then, a famine came across the land. Joseph's wicked brothers began to starve. Without knowing that Joseph had become powerful in Egypt, they journeyed there to try to get food. Joseph took mercy and fed them. Coincidence? HARDLY! Listen to what the Scriptures teach: "And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive." (Genesis 50:19-20)

Joseph's brothers did not think at all they were doing the will of God because they hid what they had done from their father who was surely one of God's elect. But God's purpose involved these men's wicked acts. They were driven by the devil, but the great Jehovah directed the overall story to

bring much good to pass.

"The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD." (Proverbs 16:1)

"The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil." (Proverbs 16:4)

"A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps."
(Proverbs 16:9)

So then, when considering the four wonderful attributes of the thrice Holy Lord God, we are left with inescapable conclusions:

If God has foreseen what will come to pass, is He correct in what He has seen? ABSOLUTELY, a thousand times, YES!

Not only is God 100% correct in what He foresees, the thing or event will happen EXACTLY as he has foreseen it.

What He has foreseen will happen EXACTLY when, where, how, and with whom He foresaw it. And not one tiny detail will vary.

Does God know exactly when, where, and how we will die? ABSOLUTELY! Therefore, we will die on that exact day in that exact way. NOT one day early, or one day late, but rather, in the exact day in which He foresaw it.

Yes, every detail, in every minute, of every day, in every age, from the beginning of time until the end of time, it all has been 100% correctly foreseen by the Great I AM.

The pagan goddess of "luck" or "chance" will not alter any of the events no matter how much fallen man deceives himself in the matter. What God has thought will surely come to pass, and what He has seen is surely EXACTLY what will happen.

Since God is 100% accurate in what He has foreseen, then it will happen EXACTLY as He has foreseen it.

Simple Foreknowledge proves predestination.

To Christ be all the honor and praise and glory forever, and ever, Amen.

In that blessed hope that is both sure and steadfast and is an anchor to the soul (Hebrews 6:19).

—Brother Dale Brown