

## ~FOREKNOWLEDGE, FOREORDINATION (3688)

[Greek, pro'gno-sis]

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• Foreknowledge means knowledge of a thing before it happens or exists, also called prescience. In the Bible it relates primarily, though not exclusively, to Yehowah God the Creator and his purposes.

• Foreordination means the ordaining, decreeing, or determining of something beforehand, or the quality or state of being foreordained.

### •• Original Language Words

• The words generally translated as **foreknow**, **foreknowledge**, and **foreordain** are found in the **Christian Greek Scriptures**, although the same basic ideas are expressed in the Hebrew Scriptures.

• **Foreknowledge** translates the Greek *pro'gno-sis*, from *pro*, before, and *gno'sis*, knowledge.

• This man, as one delivered up by the determined counsel and foreknowledge of God, you fastened to a stake by the hand of lawless men and did away with. (**Acts of Apostles 2:23**)

• According to the foreknowledge of God the Father, with sanctification by the spirit, for the purpose of their being obedient and sprinkled with the blood of Jesus Christ; May undeserved kindness and peace be increased to you. (**1 Peter 1:2**)

- The related verb *pro-gi-no'sko* is used in two cases with regard to human's. In Paul's statement that certain Jews were **previously acquainted** with him, knew him beforehand, and in Peter's reference to the **advance knowledge** had by those addressed in his second letter.
- Indeed, as to the manner of life from youth up that I led from the beginning among my nation and in Jerusalem, all the Jews (**Acts of Apostles 26:4**)
- That have been **previously acquainted** with me from the first know, if they but wish to bear witness, that according to the strictest sect of our form of worship I lived a Pharisee. (**Acts of Apostles 26:5**)
- You, therefore, beloved ones, having this **advance knowledge**, be on your guard that you may not be led away with them by the error of the law-defying people and fall from your own steadfastness. (**2 Peter 3:17**)
- In this latter case it is obvious that such **foreknowledge** was not infinite, that is, it did not mean that those Christians knew **all** the details of time, place, and circumstance about the future events and conditions Peter had discussed. But they did have a **general** outline of what to expect, received as a result of God's inspiration of Peter and of other contributors to the Bible.
- **Foreordain** translates the **Greek** *pro-o-ri'zo*, from *pro*, before, and *ho-ri'zo*, mark out or set the bounds. The **English** word **horizon** transliterates the **Greek** word *ho-ri'zon*, meaning the bounding or limiting.
- Illustrating the sense of the **Greek** verb *ho-ri'zo* is Jesus Christ's statement that, as the Son of man, he was going his way according to what was marked out **Greek**, *ho-ri-sme'non*.
- Paul said that God had decreed **marked out**, *ho-ri'sas* the appointed times and the set limits of the dwelling of men.
- Because the Son of man is going his way according to what is **marked out**, all the same, woe to that man through whom he is betrayed! (**Luke 22:22**)
- And he made out of one man every nation of men, to dwell upon the entire surface of the earth, and he decreed the appointed

times and the set limits of the dwelling of men. (**Acts of Apostles 17:26**)

- The same verb is used of human determination, as when the disciples, determined *ho'ri-san* to send relief to their needy brothers.
- So those of the disciples determined, each of them according as anyone could afford it, to send a relief ministrations to the brothers dwelling in Judea. (**Acts of Apostles 11:29**)
- However, specific references to **foreordaining** in the **Christian Greek Scriptures** are applied only to God.

### •• Factors To Recognize

- To understand the matter of **foreknowledge** and **foreordination** as relating to God, certain factors necessarily must be recognized.
- First, God's ability to **foreknow** and **foreordain** is clearly stated in the Bible. Yehowah himself sets forth as proof of his godship this ability to **foreknow** and **foreordain** events of salvation and deliverance, as well as acts of judgment and punishment, and then to bring such events to fulfillment. His chosen people are witnesses of these facts.
- This is what Yehowah has said; the King of Israel and the Repurchaser of him, Yehowah of armies, I am the first and I am the last, and besides me there is no God. (**Isaiah 44:6**)
- And who is there like me? Let him call out, that he may tell it and present it to me. From when I appointed the people of long ago, both the things coming and the things that will enter in let them tell on their part. (**Isaiah 44:7**)
- Do not be in dread, you people, and do not become stupefied. Have I not from that time on caused you individually to hear and told it out? And you are my witnesses. Does there exist a God besides me? No, there is no Rock. I have recognized none. (**Isaiah 44:8**)
- The formers of the carved image are all of them an unreality, and their darlings themselves will be of no benefit, and as their witnesses **they see nothing and know nothing**, in order, that they may be ashamed. (**Isaiah 44:9**)

- **The first things I have told even from that time, and out of my own mouth they went forth, and I kept making them heard. Suddenly I acted, and the things proceeded to come in. (Isaiah 48:3)**
- **Due to my knowing that you are hard and that your neck is an iron sinew and your forehead is copper. (Isaiah 48:4)**
- **I also kept telling you from that time. Before it could come in, I caused you to hear it, that you might not say; My own idol has done them, and my own carved image and my own molten image have commanded them. (Isaiah 48:5)**
- **You have heard. Behold it all. As for you people, will you not tell it? I have made you hear new things from the present time, even things kept in reserve, that you have not known. (Isaiah 48:6)**
- **At the present time they must be created, and not from that time, even things that before today you have not heard, that you may not say; Look! I have already known them. (Isaiah 48:7)**
- **Moreover, you have not heard, neither have you known, nor from that time on has your ear been opened. For I well know that without fail you kept dealing treacherously, and a transgressor from the belly you have been called. (Isaiah 48:8)**
- **Such divine foreknowledge and foreordination form the basis for all true prophecy.**
- **The first things, here they have come, but new things I am telling out. Before they begin to spring up, I cause you people to hear them. (Isaiah 42:9)**
- **Therefore hear, O men, the counsel of Yehowah that he has formulated against Babylon and his thoughts that he has thought out against the land of the Chaldeans. Surely the little ones of the flock will be dragged about. Surely on account of them he will cause their abiding place to be desolated. (Jeremiah 50:45)**
- **For the Sovereign Lord Yehowah will not do a thing unless he has revealed his confidential matter to his servants the prophets. (Amos 3:7)**
- **There is a lion that has roared! Who will not be afraid? The**

**Sovereign Lord Yehowah himself has spoken! Who will not prophesy? (Amos 3:8)**

- **God challenges the nations opposing his people to furnish proof of the godship they claim for their mighty ones and their idol-gods, calling on them to do so by foretelling similar acts of salvation or judgment and then bringing them to pass. Their impotence in this respect demonstrates their idols to be mere wind and unreality.**
- **Attend to me in silence, you islands, and let national groups themselves regain power. Let them approach. At that time let them speak. Let us come up close together for the judgment itself. (Isaiah 41:1)**
- **Bring your controversial case forward, says Yehowah. Produce your arguments, says the King of Jacob. (Isaiah 41:21)**
- **Produce and tell to us the things that are going to happen. The first things, what they were do tell, that we may apply our heart and know the future of them. Or cause us to hear even the things that are coming. (Isaiah 41:22)**
- **Tell the things that are to come afterward, that we may know that you are gods. Yes, you ought to do good or do bad, that we may gaze about and see it at the same time. (Isaiah 41:23)**
- **Look! you are something nonexistent, and your achievement is nothing. A detestable thing is anyone that chooses you. (Isaiah 41:24)**
- **I have roused up someone from the north, and he will come. From the rising of the sun he will call upon my name. And he will come upon deputy rulers as if they were clay and just as a potter that tramples down the moist material. (Isaiah 41:25)**
- **Who has told anything from the start, that we may know, or from times past, that we may say; He is right? Really there is no one telling. Really there is no one causing one to hear. Really there is no one that is hearing any sayings of you men. (Isaiah 41:26)**
- **There is one first, saying to Zion; Look! Here they are! And to Jerusalem I shall give a bringer of Good News. (Isaiah 41:27)**
- **And I kept seeing, and there was not a man, and out of these**

- there was also no one that was giving counsel. And I kept asking them, that they might make a reply. (**Isaiah 41:28**)
- **Look! All of them are something nonexistent. Their works are nothing. Their molten images are wind and unreality. (**Isaiah 41:29**)**
  - **Let the nations all be collected together at one place, and let national groups be gathered together. Who is there among them that can tell this? Or can they cause us to hear even the first things? Let them furnish their witnesses, that they may be declared righteous, or let them hear and say; It is the truth! (**Isaiah 43:9**)**
  - **You are my witnesses, is the utterance of Yehowah, even my servant whom I have chosen, in order, that you may know and have faith in me, and that you may understand that I am the same One. Before me there was no God formed, and after me there continued to be none. (**Isaiah 43:10**)**
  - **I, I am Yehowah, and besides me there is no savior. (**Isaiah 43:11**)**
  - **I myself have told forth and have saved and have caused it to be heard, when there was among you no strange god. So you are my witnesses, is the utterance of Yehowah, and I am God. (**Isaiah 43:12**)**
  - **Also, all the time I am the same One, and there is no one effecting deliverance out of my own hand. I shall get active, and who can turn it back? (**Isaiah 43:13**)**
  - **This is what Yehowah has said, the Repurchaser of you people, the Holy One of Israel; For your sakes I will send to Babylon and cause the bars of the prisons to come down, and the Chaldeans in the ships with whining cries on their part. (**Isaiah 43:14**)**
  - **I am Yehowah your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King. (**Isaiah 43:15**)**
  - **Collect yourselves and come. Bring yourselves up close together, you escapees from the nations. Those carrying the wood of their carved image have not come to any knowledge, neither have those praying to a god that cannot save. (**Isaiah 45:20**)**

- **Make your report and your presentation. Yes, let them consult together in unity. Who has caused this to be heard from a long time ago? Who has reported it from that very time? Is it not I, Yehowah, besides whom there is no other God. A righteous God and a Savior, there being none excepting me? (Isaiah 45:21)**
- **A second factor to be considered is the free moral agency of God's intelligent creatures. The Scriptures show that God extends to such creatures the privilege and responsibility of free choice, of exercising free moral agency**
- **I do take the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you today, that I have put life and death before you, the blessing and the malediction, and you must choose life in order, that you may keep alive, you and your offspring. (Deuteronomy 30:19)**
- **By loving Yehowah your God, by listening to his voice and by sticking to him, for he is your life and the length of your days, that you may dwell upon the ground that Yehowah swore to your forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to give to them. (Deuteronomy 30:20)**
- **Now if it is bad in your eyes to serve Yehowah, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve, whether the gods that your forefathers who were on the other side of the River served or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are dwelling. But as for me and my household, we shall serve Yehowah. (Joshua 24:15)**
- **Thereby making them accountable for their acts.**
- **And Yehowah God also laid this command upon the man. From every tree of the garden you may eat to satisfaction. (Genesis 2:16)**
- **But as for the tree of the knowledge of good and bad you must not eat from it, for in the day you eat from it you will positively die. (Genesis 2:17)**
- **At that he said; Who told you that you were naked? From the tree from which I commanded you not to eat have you eaten? (Genesis 3:11)**

- **And the man went on to say; The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree and so I ate. (Genesis 3:12)**
- **With that Yehowah God said to the woman; What is this you have done? To this the woman replied; The serpent, it deceived me and so I ate. (Genesis 3:13)**
- **And Yehowah God proceeded to say to the serpent; Because you have done this thing, you are the cursed one out of all the domestic animals and out of all the wild beasts of the field. Upon your belly you will go and dust is what you will eat all the days of your life. (Genesis 3:14)**
- **And I shall put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed. He will bruise you in the head and you will bruise him in the heel. (Genesis 3:15)**
- **To the woman he said; I shall greatly increase the pain of your pregnancy, in birth pangs you will bring forth children, and your craving will be for your husband, and he will dominate you. (Genesis 3:16)**
- **And to Adam he said; Because you listened to your wife's voice and took to eating from the tree concerning which I gave you this command; You must not eat from it, cursed is the ground on your account. In pain you will eat its produce all the days of your life. (Genesis 3:17)**
- **And thorns and thistles it will grow for you, and you must eat the vegetation of the field. (Genesis 3:18)**
- **In the sweat of your face you will eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken. For dust you are and to dust you will return. (Genesis 3:19)**
- **But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you also look down on your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God. (Romans 14:10)**
- **For it is written: As I live, says Yehowah, to me every knee will bend down, and every tongue will make open acknowledgment to God. (Romans 14:11)**



- **So, then, each of us will render an account for himself to God. (Romans 14:12)**
- **And there is not a creation that is not manifest to his sight, but all things are naked and openly exposed to the eyes of him with whom we have an accounting. (Hebrews 4:13)**
- **They are thus not mere automatons, or robots. Man could not truly have been created in God's image if he were not a free moral agent.**
- **And God went on to say; Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and the domestic animals and all the earth and every moving animal that is moving upon the earth. (Genesis 1:26)**
- **And God proceeded to create the man in his image, in God's image he created him, male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27)**
- **Logically, there should be no conflict between God's foreknowledge, as well as his foreordaining, and the free moral agency of his intelligent creatures.**

### **See Also FREEDOM**

- **A third factor that must be considered, one sometimes overlooked, is that of God's moral standards and qualities, including his justice, honesty, impartiality, love, mercy, and kindness.**
- **Any understanding of God's use of the powers of foreknowledge and foreordination must therefore harmonize with not only some of these factors but with all of them.**
- **Clearly, whatever God foreknows must inevitably come to pass, so that God is able to call, things that are not as though they were.**
- **Just as it is written: I have appointed you a father of many nations. This was in the sight of the One in whom he had faith, even of God, who makes the dead alive and calls the things that are not as though they were. (Romans 4:17)**

### **.. Does God Know Everything In Advance**

- The question then arises. Is his exercise of foreknowledge infinite, without limit? Does he foresee and foreknow all future actions of all his creatures, spirit and human?
- And does he foreordain such actions or even predestinate what shall be the final destiny of all his creatures, even doing so before they have come into existence?
- Or, is God's exercise of foreknowledge selective and discretionary, so that whatever he chooses to foresee and foreknow, he does, but what he does not choose to foresee or foreknow, he does not?
- And, instead of preceding their existence, does God's determination of his creatures eternal destiny await his judgment of their course of life and of their proved attitude under test?
- The answers to these questions must necessarily come from the Scriptures themselves and the information they provide concerning God's actions and dealings with his creatures, including what has been revealed through his Son, Christ Jesus.
- For, who has come to know the mind of Yehowah, that he may instruct him? But we do have the mind of Christ. ([1 Corinthians 2:16](#))

### · Predestinarian View

- The view that God's exercise of his **foreknowledge** is infinite and that he does **foreordain** the course and destiny of all individuals is known as **predestinarianism**.
- Its advocates reason that God's divinity and perfection require that he be omniscient or all-knowing, not only respecting the past and present but also regarding the future.
- According to this concept, for him not to **foreknow** all matters in their minutest detail would evidence imperfection. Examples such as the case of Isaac's twin sons, Esau and Jacob, are presented as evidence of God's **foreordaining** creatures before their birth
- Yet not that case alone, but also when Rebekah conceived twins from the one man, Isaac our forefather. ([Romans 9:10](#))

- For when they had not yet been born nor had practiced anything good or vile, in order, that the purpose of God respecting the choosing might continue dependent, not upon works, but upon the One who calls. (**Romans 9:11**)
- It was said to her; The older will be the slave of the younger. (**Romans 9:12**)
- Just as it is written: I loved Jacob, but Esau I hated. (**Romans 9:13**)
- And texts such as;
- Just as he chose us in union with him before the founding of the world, that we should be holy and without blemish before him in love. (**Ephesians 1:4**)
- For he **foreordained** us to the adoption through Jesus Christ as sons to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will. (**Ephesians 1:5**)
- Are cited as evidence that God **foreknew** and **foreordained** the future of all his creatures even before the start of creation.
- To be correct, this view would, of course, have to harmonize with all the factors previously mentioned, including the Scriptural presentation of God's qualities, standards, and purposes, as well as his righteous ways in dealing with his creatures.
- And they are singing the song of Moses the slave of God and the song of the Lamb, saying; Great and wonderful are your works, Yehowah God, the Almighty. Righteous and true are your ways, King of eternity. (**Revelation 15:3**)
- Who will not really fear you, Yehowah, and glorify your name, because you alone are loyal? For all the nations will come and worship before you, because your righteous decrees have been made manifest. (**Revelation 15:4**)
- We may properly consider, then, the implications of such a predestinarian view.

- **This concept would mean that, prior to creating angels or earthling man, God exercised his powers of foreknowledge and foresaw and foreknew all that would result from such creation, including the rebellion of one of his spirit sons, the subsequent rebellion of the first human pair in Eden**
- **Now the serpent proved to be the most cautious of all the wild beasts of the field that Yehowah God had made. So it began to say to the woman; Is it really so that God said you must not eat from every tree of the garden? ([Genesis 3:1](#))**
- **At this the woman said to the serpent; Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat. ([Genesis 3:2](#))**
- **But as for eating of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, God has said; You must not eat from it, no, you must not touch it that you do not die. ([Genesis 3:3](#))**
- **At this the serpent said to the woman; You positively will not die. ([Genesis 3:4](#))**
- **For God knows that in the very day of your eating from it your eyes are bound to be opened and you are bound to be like God, knowing good and bad. ([Genesis 3:5](#))**
- **Consequently the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was something to be longed for to the eyes, yes, the tree was desirable to look upon. So she began taking of its fruit and eating it. Afterward she gave some also to her husband when with her and he began eating it. ([Genesis 3:6](#))**
- **You are from your father the Devil, and you wish to do the desires of your father. That one was a manslayer when he began, and he did not stand fast in the truth, because truth is not in him. When he speaks the lie, he speaks according to his own disposition, because he is a liar and the father of the lie. ([John 8:44](#))**
- **And all the bad consequences of such rebellion down to and beyond this present day. This would necessarily mean that all the wickedness that history has recorded, the crime and immorality, oppression and resultant suffering, lying and hypocrisy, false worship and idolatry, once existed, before creations beginning, only in the mind**

of God, in the form of his **foreknowledge** of the future in all of its minutest details.

- If the Creator of mankind had indeed exercised his power to foreknow all that history has seen since man's creation, then the full weight of all the wickedness thereafter resulting was deliberately set in motion by God when he spoke the words.
- And God went on to say; Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and the domestic animals and all the earth and every moving animal that is moving upon the earth. (**Genesis 1:26**)
- These facts bring into question the reasonableness and consistency of the **predestinarian** concept, particularly so, since the disciple James shows that disorder and other vile things do not originate from God's heavenly presence but are earthly, animal, demonic in source.
- But if you have bitter jealousy and contentiousness in your hearts, do not be bragging and lying against the truth. (**James 3:14**)
- This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is the earthly, animal, demonic. (**James 3:15**)
- For where jealousy and contentiousness are, there disorder and every vile thing are. (**James 3:16**)
- But the wisdom from above is first of all chaste, then peaceable, reasonable, ready to obey, full of mercy and good fruits, not making partial distinctions, not hypocritical. (**James 3:17**)
- Moreover, the fruit of righteousness has its seed sown under peaceful conditions for those who are making peace. (**James 3:18**)

#### •• Infinite Exercise Of Foreknowledge?

- The argument that God's not **foreknowing** all future events and circumstances in full detail would evidence imperfection on his part is, in reality, an arbitrary view of perfection.

- **Perfection, correctly defined, does not demand such an absolute, all-embracing extension, inasmuch as the perfection of anything actually depends upon its measuring up completely to the standards of excellence set by one qualified to judge its merits.**
- **Ultimately, God's own will and good pleasure, not human opinions or concepts, are the deciding factors as to whether anything is perfect.**
- **The Rock, perfect is his activity, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness, with whom there is no injustice. Righteous and upright is he. ([Deuteronomy 32:4](#))**
- **As for the true God, perfect is his way. The saying of Yehowah is a refined one. A shield he is to all those taking refuge in him. ([2 Samuel 22:31](#))**
- **The One telling from the beginning the finale, and from long ago the things that have not been done, the One saying; My own counsel will stand, and everything that is my delight I shall do. ([Isaiah 46:10](#))**

**See Also PERFECTION**

- **To illustrate this, God's almightiness is undeniably perfect and is infinite in capacity.**
- **Yours, O Yehowah, are the greatness and the mightiness and the beauty and the excellency and the dignity, for everything in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Yehowah, the One also lifting yourself up as head over all. ([1 Chronicles 29:11](#))**
- **The riches and the glory are on account of you, and you are dominating everything, and in your hand there are power and mightiness, and in your hand is ability to make great and to give strength to all. ([1 Chronicles 29:12](#))**
- **Look! God himself acts exaltedly with his power, who is an instructor like him? ([Job 36:22](#))**
- **As for the Almighty, we have not found him out, he is exalted in power, and justice and abundance of righteousness he will not belittle. ([Job 37:23](#))**

- Yet his perfection in strength does not require him to use his power to the full extent of his omnipotence in any or in all cases. Clearly he has not done so, if he had, not merely certain ancient cities and some nations would have been destroyed, but the earth and all in it would have been obliterated long ago by God's executions of judgment, accompanied by mighty expressions of disapproval and wrath, as at the Flood and on other occasions.
- Consequently Yehowah saw that the badness of man was abundant in the earth and every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only bad all the time. ([Genesis 6:5](#))
- And Yehowah felt regrets that he had made men in the earth, and he felt hurt at his heart. ([Genesis 6:6](#))
- So Yehowah said; I am going to wipe men whom I have created off the surface of the ground, from man to domestic animal, to moving animal and to flying creature of the heavens, because I do regret that I have made them. ([Genesis 6:7](#))
- But Noah found favor in the eyes of Yehowah. ([Genesis 6:8](#))
- The sun had gone forth over the land when Lot arrived at Zoar. ([Genesis 19:23](#))
- Then Yehowah made it rain sulphur and fire from Yehowah, from the heavens, upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah. ([Genesis 19:24](#))
- So he went ahead overthrowing these cities, even the entire District and all the inhabitants of the cities and the plants of the ground. ([Genesis 19:25](#))
- And it came about that when God brought the cities of the District to ruin God kept Abraham in mind in that he took steps to send Lot out of the midst of the overthrow when overthrowing the cities among which Lot had been dwelling. ([Genesis 19:29](#))
- Then Yehowah said to Moses; Get up early in the morning and take a position in front of Pharaoh, and you must say to him; This is what Yehowah the God of the Hebrews has said; Send my people away that they may serve me. ([Exodus 9:13](#))
- For at this time I am sending all my blows against your heart and

- upon your servants and your people, to the end that you may know that there is none like me in all the earth. (**Exodus 9:14**)
- For by now I could have thrust my hand out that I might strike you and your people with pestilence and that you might be effaced from the earth. (**Exodus 9:15**)
  - But, in fact, for this cause I have kept you in existence, for the sake of showing you my power and in order to have my name declared in all the earth. (**Exodus 9:16**)
  - Look! A windstorm of Yehowah, rage itself, has gone forth, an onward-sweeping tempest. Upon the head of the wicked ones it will whirl. (**Jeremiah 30:23**)
  - The burning anger of Yehowah will not turn back until he will have executed and until he will have carried out the ideas of his heart. In the final part of the days you people will give your consideration to it. (**Jeremiah 30:24**)
  - **God's exercise of his might is therefore not simply an unleashing of limitless power but is constantly governed by his purpose and, where merited, tempered by his mercy.**
  - And in your abundant mercy you did not make an extermination of them or leave them, for you are a God gracious and merciful. (**Nehemiah 9:31**)
  - But he was merciful. He would cover the error and not bring ruin. And many times he made his anger turn back, and he would not rouse up all his rage. (**Psalms 78:38**)
  - And he kept remembering that they were flesh, that the spirit is going forth and does not come back. (**Psalms 78:39**)
  - For I am with you, is the utterance of Yehowah, to save you, but I shall make an extermination among all the nations to which I have scattered you. However, in your case I shall make no extermination. And I shall have to correct you to the proper degree, as I shall by no means leave you unpunished. (**Jeremiah 30:11**)
  - It is the acts of loving-kindness of Yehowah that we have not come to our finish, because his mercies will certainly not come to



an end. (**Lamentations 3:22**)

- And my eye began to feel sorry for them to keep me from bringing them to ruin, and I did not make an extermination of them in the wilderness. (**Ezekiel 20:17**)
- Similarly, if, in certain respects, God chooses to exercise his infinite ability of **foreknowledge** in a selective way and to the degree that pleases him, then assuredly no human or angel can rightly say; What are you doing?
- Look! He snatches away. Who can resist him? Who will say to him, What are you doing? (**Job 9:12**)
- Woe to the one that has contended with his Former, as an earthenware fragment with the other earthenware fragments of the ground! Should the clay say to its former; What do you make? And your achievement say; He has no hands? (**Isaiah 45:9**)
- And all the inhabitants of the earth are being considered as merely nothing, and he is doing according to his own will among the army of the heavens and the inhabitants of the earth. And there exists no one that can check his hand or that can say to him, What have you been doing? (**Daniel 4:35**)
- It is therefore not a question of ability, what God **can foresee**, **foreknow**, and **foreordain**, for with God all things are possible.
- Looking them in the face, Jesus said to them; With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible. (**Matthew 19:26**)
- The question is what God **sees fit** to **foresee**, **foreknow**, and **foreordain**, for everything that he delighted to do he has done.
- But our God is in the heavens, everything that he delighted to do he has done. (**Psalms 115:3**)

#### •• Selective Exercise Of Foreknowledge

- The alternative to predestinarianism, the selective or discretionary exercise of God's powers of **foreknowledge**, would have to harmonize with God's own righteous standards and be consistent with what he reveals of himself in his Word.

- **In contrast with the theory of predestinarianism, a number of texts point to an examination by God of a situation then current and a decision made on the basis of such examination.**
- **And Yehowah proceeded to go down to see the city and the tower that the sons of men had built. (Genesis 11:5)**
- **After that Yehowah said; Look! They are one people and there is one language for them all, and this is what they start to do. Why, now there is nothing that they may have in mind to do that will be unattainable for them. (Genesis 11:6)**
- **Come now! Let us go down and there confuse their language that they may not listen to one another's language. (Genesis 11:7)**
- **Accordingly Yehowah scattered them from there over all the surface of the earth, and they gradually left off building the city. (Genesis 11:8)**
- **God is described as directing his attention earthward, surveying the situation at Babel, and, at that time, determining the action to be taken to break up the unrighteous project there.**
- **After wickedness developed at Sodom and Gomorrah, Yehowah advised Abraham of his decision to investigate, by means of his angels, to see whether they act altogether according to the outcry over it that has come to me, and, if not, I can get to know it.**
- **Consequently Yehowah said; The cry of complaint about Sodom and Gomorrah, yes, it is loud, and their sin, yes, it is very heavy. (Genesis 18:20)**
- **I am quite determined to go down that I may see whether they act altogether according to the outcry over it that has come to me, and, if not, I can get to know it. (Genesis 18:21)**
- **At this point the men turned from there and got on their way to Sodom, but as for Yehowah, he was still standing before Abraham. (Genesis 18:22)**
- **Now the two angels arrived at Sodom by evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot caught sight of them,**

- then he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the earth. (**Genesis 19:1**)
- **God spoke of becoming acquainted with Abraham, and after Abraham went to the point of attempting to sacrifice Isaac, Yehowah said; For now I do know that you are God-fearing in that you have not withheld your son, your only one, from me.**
  - **For I have become acquainted with him in order, that he may command his sons and his household after him so that they shall keep Yehowah's way to do righteousness and judgment, in order, that Yehowah may certainly bring upon Abraham what he has spoken about him. (**Genesis 18:19**)**
  - **But Yehowah's angel began calling to him out of the heavens and saying; Abraham, Abraham! To which he answered; Here I am! (**Genesis 22:11**)**
  - **And he went on to say; Do not put out your hand against the boy and do not do anything at all to him, for now I do know that you are God-fearing in that you have not withheld your son, your only one, from me. (**Genesis 22:12**)**
  - **You are Yehowah the true God, who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and constituted his name Abraham. (**Nehemiah 9:7**)**
  - **And you found his heart faithful before you, so there was a contracting of the covenant with him to give him the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Jebusites and the Girgashites, to give it to his seed, and you proceeded to carry out your words, because you are righteous. (**Nehemiah 9:8**)**
  - **But now that you have come to know God, or rather now that you have come to be known by God, how is it that you are turning back again to the weak and beggarly elementary things and want to slave for them over again? (**Galatians 4:9**)**
  - **Selective foreknowledge means that God could choose **not to foreknow** indiscriminately all the future acts of his creatures. This would mean that, rather than all history from creation onward being a mere rerun of what had already been **foreseen** and **foreordained**, God**

could with all sincerity set before the first human pair the prospect of everlasting life in an earth free from wickedness.

- His instructions to his first human son and daughter to act as his perfect and sinless agents in filling the earth with their offspring and making it a paradise, as well as exercising control over the animal creation, could thus be expressed as the grant of a truly loving privilege and as his genuine desire toward them not merely as the giving of a commission that, on their part, was foredoomed to failure.
- God's arranging for a test by means of the tree of the knowledge of good and bad and his creation of the tree of life in the garden of Eden also would not be meaningless or cynical acts, made so by his **foreknowing** that the human pair would sin and never be able to eat of the tree of life.
- Further, God blessed them and God said to them; Be fruitful and become many and fill the earth and subdue it, and have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and every living creature that is moving upon the earth. (**Genesis 1:28**)
- And Yehowah God proceeded to form the man out of dust from the ground and to blow into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man came to be a living soul. (**Genesis 2:7**)
- Further, Yehowah God planted a garden in Eden, toward the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. (**Genesis 2:8**)
- Thus Yehowah God made to grow out of the ground every tree desirable to ones sight and good for food and also the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and bad. (**Genesis 2:9**)
- And Yehowah God proceeded to take the man and settle him in the garden of Eden to cultivate it and to take care of it. (**Genesis 2:15**)
- And Yehowah God also laid this command upon the man; From every tree of the garden you may eat to satisfaction. (**Genesis 2:16**)
- But as for the tree of the knowledge of good and bad you must not eat from it, for in the day you eat from it you will positively

die. (**Genesis 2:17**)

- **And Yehowah God went on to say; Here the man has become like one of us in knowing good and bad, and now in order, that he may not put his hand out and actually take fruit also from the tree of life and eat and live to time indefinite. (**Genesis 3:22**)**
- **With that Yehowah God put him out of the garden of Eden to cultivate the ground from which he had been taken. (**Genesis 3:23**)**
- **And so he drove the man out and posted at the east of the garden of Eden the cherubs and the flaming blade of a sword that was turning itself continually to guard the way to the tree of life. (**Genesis 3:24**)**
- **To offer something very desirable to another person on conditions known beforehand to be unreachable is recognized as both hypocritical and cruel.**
- **The prospect of everlasting life is presented in God's Word as a goal for all persons, one possible to attain. After urging his listeners to keep on asking and seeking good things from God, Jesus pointed out that a father does not give a stone or a serpent to his child that asks for bread or a fish.**
- **Showing his Fathers view of disappointing the legitimate hopes of a person, Jesus then said; Therefore, if you, although being wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more so will your Father who is in the heavens give good things to those asking him?**
- **Keep on asking, and it will be given you. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and it will be opened to you. (**Matthew 7:7**)**
- **For everyone asking receives, and everyone seeking finds, and to everyone knocking it will be opened. (**Matthew 7:8**)**
- **Indeed, who is the man among you whom his son asks for bread, he will not hand him a stone, will he? (**Matthew 7:9**)**
- **Or, perhaps, he will ask for a fish, he will not hand him a serpent, will he? (**Matthew 7:10**)**

- **Therefore, if you, although being wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more so will your Father who is in the heavens give good things to those asking him? (Matthew 7:11)**
- **Thus, the invitations and opportunities to receive benefits and everlasting blessings set before all men by God are bona fide.**
- **And all the things you ask in prayer, having faith, you will receive. (Matthew 21:22)**
- **So, if any one of you is lacking in wisdom, let him keep on asking God, for he gives generously to all and without reproaching, and it will be given him. (James 1:5)**
- **But let him keep on asking in faith, not doubting at all, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven by the wind and blown about. (James 1:6)**
- **He can in all sincerity urge men to turn back from transgression and keep living, as he did with the people of Israel.**
- **Do I take any delight at all in the death of someone wicked, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah, and not in that he should turn back from his ways and actually keep living? (Ezekiel 18:23)**
- **Therefore each one according to his ways is how I shall judge you, O house of Israel, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah. Turn back, yes, cause a turning back from all your transgressions, and let nothing prove to be for you people a stumbling block causing error. (Ezekiel 18:30)**
- **Throw off from yourselves all your transgressions in which you have transgressed and make for yourselves a new heart and a new spirit, for why should you die, O house of Israel? (Ezekiel 18:31)**
- **For I do not take any delight in the death of someone dying, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah. So cause a turning back and keep living, O you people. (Ezekiel 18:32)**
- **For I myself well know the thoughts that I am thinking toward**

- you, is the utterance of Yehowah, thoughts of peace, and not of calamity, to give you a future and a hope. ([Jeremiah 29:11](#))
- **And you will certainly call me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ([Jeremiah 29:12](#))**
  - **Logically, he could not do this if he foreknew that they were individually destined to die in wickedness.**
  - **True, God has overlooked the times of such ignorance, yet now he is telling mankind that they should all everywhere repent. ([Acts of Apostles 17:30](#))**
  - **Because he has set a day in which he purposes to judge the inhabited earth in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and he has furnished a guarantee to all men in that he has resurrected him from the dead. ([Acts of Apostles 17:31](#))**
  - **This is fine and acceptable in the sight of our Savior, God. ([1 Timothy 2:3](#))**
  - **Whose will is that all sorts of men should be saved and come to an accurate knowledge of truth. ([1 Timothy 2:4](#))**
  - **As Yehowah told Israel; Nor said I to the seed of Jacob, Seek me simply for nothing, you people. I am Yehowah, speaking what is righteous, telling what is upright. Turn to me and be saved, all you at the ends of the earth.**
  - **In a place of concealment I spoke not, in a dark place of the earth, nor said I to the seed of Jacob, Seek me simply for nothing, you people. I am Yehowah, speaking what is righteous, telling what is upright. ([Isaiah 45:19](#))**
  - **Collect yourselves and come. Bring yourselves up close together, you escapees from the nations. Those carrying the wood of their carved image have not come to any knowledge, neither have those praying to a god that cannot save. ([Isaiah 45:20](#))**
  - **Make your report and your presentation. Yes, let them consult together in unity. Who has caused this to be heard from a long time ago? Who has reported it from that very time? Is it not I, Yehowah, besides whom there is no other God, a righteous God and a Savior, there being none excepting me? ([Isaiah 45:21](#))**

- Turn to me and be saved, all you at the ends of the earth, for I am God, and there is no one else. (**Isaiah 45:22**)
- In a similar vein, the apostle Peter writes.
- Yehowah is not slow respecting his promise, as some people consider slowness, but he is patient with you because he does not desire any to be destroyed but desires all to attain to repentance. (**2 Peter 3:9**)
- If God already **foreknew** and **foreordained** millenniums in advance precisely which individuals would receive eternal salvation and which individuals would receive eternal destruction, it may well be asked how meaningful such patience of God could be and how genuine his desire could be that all attain to repentance.
- The inspired apostle John wrote that God is love, and the apostle Paul states that love hopes all things.
- He that does not love has not come to know God, because God is love. (**1 John 4:8**)
- Love is long-suffering and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, does not get puffed up. (**1 Corinthians 13:4**)
- It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (**1 Corinthians 13:7**)
- It is in harmony with this outstanding, divine quality that God should exercise a genuinely open, kindly attitude toward all persons, he being desirous of their gaining salvation, until they prove themselves unworthy, beyond hope.
- Yehowah is not slow respecting his promise, as some people consider slowness, but he is patient with you because he does not desire any to be destroyed but desires all to attain to repentance. (**2 Peter 3:9**)
- For it is impossible as regards those who have once for all been enlightened, and who have tasted the heavenly free gift, and who have become partakers of Holy Spirit. (**Hebrews 6:4**)
- And who have tasted the fine word of God and powers of the



coming system of things. (**Hebrews 6:5**)

- But who have fallen away, to revive them again to repentance, because they impale the Son of God afresh for themselves and expose him to public shame. (**Hebrews 6:6**)
- For example, the ground that drinks in the rain which often comes upon it, and that then brings forth vegetation suitable to those for whom it is also cultivated, receives in return a blessing from God. (**Hebrews 6:7**)
- But if it produces thorns and thistles, it is rejected and is near to being cursed, and it ends up with being burned. (**Hebrews 6:8**)
- However, in your case, beloved ones, we are convinced of better things and things accompanied with salvation, although we are speaking in this way. (**Hebrews 6:9**)
- For God is not unrighteous so as to forget your work and the love you showed for his name, in that you have ministered to the holy ones and continue ministering. (**Hebrews 6:10**)
- But we desire each one of you to show the same industriousness so as to have the full assurance of the hope down to the end. (**Hebrews 6:11**)
- In order, that you may not become sluggish, but be imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (**Hebrews 6:12**)
- Thus, the apostle Paul speaks of the kindly quality of God that is trying to lead you to repentance.
- Or do you despise the riches of his kindness and forbearance and long-suffering, because you do not know that the kindly quality of God is trying to lead you to repentance? (**Romans 2:4**)
- But according to your hardness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath and of the revealing of God's righteous judgment. (**Romans 2:5**)
- And he will render to each one according to his works: (**Romans 2:6**)

- Finally if, by God's **foreknowledge**, the opportunity to receive the benefits of Christ Jesus ransom sacrifice were already irrevocably sealed off from some, perhaps for millions of individuals, even before their birth, so that such ones could never prove worthy, it could not truly be said that the ransom was made available to all men.
- For the love the Christ has compels us, because this is what we have judged, that one man died for all, so, then, all had died. (**2 Corinthians 5:14**)
- And he died for all that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died for them and was raised up. (**2 Corinthians 5:15**)
- For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, a man, Christ Jesus. (**1 Timothy 2:5**)
- Who gave himself a corresponding ransom for all, this is what is to be witnessed to at its own particular times. (**1 Timothy 2:6**)
- But we behold Jesus, who has been made a little lower than angels, crowned with glory and honor for having suffered death, that he by God's undeserved kindness might taste death for every man. (**Hebrews 2:9**)
- The impartiality of God is clearly no mere figure of speech. In every nation the man that fears God and works righteousness is acceptable to him.
- At this Peter opened his mouth and said; For a certainty I perceive that God is not partial. (**Acts of Apostles 10:34**)
- But in every nation the man that fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him. (**Acts of Apostles 10:35**)
- For Yehowah your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the God great, mighty and fear-inspiring, who treats none with partiality nor accepts a bribe. (**Deuteronomy 10:17**)
- For there is no partiality with God. (**Romans 2:11**)
- The option is actually and genuinely open to all men to seek God, if they might grope for him and really find him, although, in fact, he is not far off from each one of us.

- And he made out of one man every nation of men, to dwell upon the entire surface of the earth, and he decreed the appointed times and the set limits of the dwelling of men. (**Acts of Apostles 17:26**)
- For them to seek God, if they might grope for him and really find him, although, in fact, he is not far off from each one of us. (**Acts of Apostles 17:27**)
- There is no empty hope or hollow promise set forth, therefore, in the divine exhortation at the end of the book of Revelation inviting;
- And the spirit and the bride keep on saying; Come! And let anyone hearing say; Come! And let anyone thirsting come, let anyone that wishes take life's water free. (**Revelation 22:17**)

### ••The Things Foreknown And Foreordained

- Throughout the Bible record, God's exercise of **foreknowledge** and **foreordination** is consistently tied in with his own purposes and will. To purpose means to set something before oneself as an aim or an object to be attained.
- The **Greek** word *pro'the-sis*, translated **purpose**, means, literally, something placed or set forth before.
- Since God's **purposes** are certain of accomplishment, he can **foreknow** the results, the ultimate realization of his purposes, and can **foreordain** them as well as the steps he may see fit to take to accomplish them.
- Yehowah of armies has sworn, saying; Surely just as I have figured, so it must occur, and just as I have counseled, that is what will come true. (**Isaiah 14:24**)
- In order to break the Assyrian in my land and that I may tread him down on my own mountains, and that his yoke may actually depart from upon them and that his very load may depart from upon their shoulder. (**Isaiah 14:25**)
- This is the counsel that is counseled against all the earth, and this is the hand that is stretched out against all the nations. (**Isaiah 14:26**)

- For Yehowah of armies himself has counseled, and who can break it up? And his hand is the one stretched out, and who can turn it back? (**Isaiah 14:27**)
- Thus, Yehowah is spoken of as, forming or fashioning, from the Hebrew *ya-tsar'*, related to the word for **potter**.
- And the vessel that he was making with the clay was spoiled by the potters hand, and he turned back and went making it into another vessel, just as it looked right in the eyes of the potter to make. (**Jeremiah 18:4**)
- His purpose concerning future events or actions.
- Have you not heard? From remote times it is what I will do. From bygone days I have even formed it. Now I will bring it in. And you will serve to make fortified cities desolate as piles of ruins. (**2 Kings 19:25**)
- The One calling from the sunrising a bird of prey, from a distant land the man to execute my counsel. I have even spoken it. I shall also bring it in. I have formed it. I shall also do it. (**Isaiah 46:11**)
- Woe to the one that has contended with his Former, as an earthenware fragment with the other earthenware fragments of the ground! Should the clay say to its former; What do you make? And your achievement say; He has no hands? (**Isaiah 45:9**)
- Woe to the one saying to a father; What do you become father to? And to the wife; What are you in birth pains with? (**Isaiah 45:10**)
- This is what Yehowah has said, the Holy One of Israel and the Former of him; Ask me even about the things that are coming concerning my sons, and concerning the activity of my hands you people should command me. (**Isaiah 45:11**)
- I myself have made the earth and have created even man upon it. I, my own hands have stretched out the heavens, and all the army of them I have commanded. (**Isaiah 45:12**)

- **I myself have roused up someone in righteousness, and all his ways I shall straighten out. He is the one that will build my city, and those of mine in exile he will let go, not for a price nor for bribery, Yehowah of armies has said. (Isaiah 45:13)**
- **For this is what Yehowah has said, the Creator of the heavens, He the true God, the Former of the earth and the Maker of it, He the One who firmly established it, who did not create it simply for nothing, who formed it even to be inhabited; I am Yehowah, and there is no one else. (Isaiah 45:18)**
- **As the Great Potter, God operates all things according to the way his will counsels, in harmony with his purpose**
- **In union with whom we were also assigned as heirs, in that we were foreordained according to the purpose of him who operates all things according to the way his will counsels. (Ephesians 1:11)**
- **And makes all his works cooperate together for the good of those loving him.**
- **Now we know that God makes all his works cooperate together for the good of those who love God, those who are the ones called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)**
- **It is, therefore, specifically in connection with his own foreordained purposes that God tells from the beginning the finale, and from long ago the things that have not been done.**
- **Remember the first things of a long time ago, that I am the Divine One and there is no other God, nor anyone like me. (Isaiah 46:9)**
- **The One telling from the beginning the finale, and from long ago the things that have not been done, the One saying; My own counsel will stand, and everything that is my delight I shall do. (Isaiah 46:10)**
- **The One calling from the sunrising a bird of prey, from a distant land the man to execute my counsel. I have even spoken it. I shall also bring it in. I have formed it. I shall also do it. (Isaiah 46:11)**

- Listen to me, you the ones powerful at heart, you the ones far away from righteousness. ([Isaiah 46:12](#))
- I have brought near my righteousness. It is not far away, and my own salvation will not be late. And I will give in Zion salvation, to Israel my beauty. ([Isaiah 46:13](#))
- When God created the first human pair they were perfect, and God could look upon the result of all his creative work and find it very good.
- And God went on to say; Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and the domestic animals and all the earth and every moving animal that is moving upon the earth. ([Genesis 1:26](#))
- After that God saw everything he had made and, look! It was very good. And there came to be evening and there came to be morning, a sixth day. ([Genesis 1:31](#))
- The Rock, perfect is his activity, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness, with whom there is no injustice. Righteous and upright is he. ([Deuteronomy 32:4](#))
- Instead of distrustfully concerning himself with what the human pairs future actions would be, the record says that he proceeded to rest.
- And by the seventh day God came to the completion of his work that he had made, and he proceeded to rest on the seventh day from all his work that he had made. ([Genesis 2:2](#))
- He could do so since, by virtue of his almightiness and his supreme wisdom, no future action, circumstance, or contingency could possibly present an insurmountable obstacle or an irremediable problem to block the realization of his sovereign purpose.
- And he proceeded to say; O Yehowah the God of our forefathers, are you not God in the heavens, and are you not dominating over all the kingdoms of the nations, and are there not in your hand power and mightiness, with no one to hold his ground against you? ([2 Chronicles 20:6](#))

- For Yehowah of armies himself has counseled, and who can break it up? And his hand is the one stretched out, and who can turn it back? (**Isaiah 14:27**)
- And all the inhabitants of the earth are being considered as merely nothing, and he is doing according to his own will among the army of the heavens and the inhabitants of the earth. And there exists no one that can check his hand or that can say to him, What have you been doing? (**Daniel 4:35**)
- There is, therefore, no Scriptural basis for the argument of predestinarianism that for God to refrain from exercising his powers of **foreknowledge** in this way would jeopardize God's purposes, making them always liable to be broken through want of foresight, and that he must be continually putting his system to rights, as it gets out of order, through the contingency of the actions of moral agents.
- Nor would this selective exercise of foresight give his creatures the power to break God's measures, make him continually to change his mind, subject him to vexation, and bring him into confusion, as predestinarians claim. [**McClintock and Strong's Cyclopaedia, 1894, Vol. VIII, p. 556**]
- If even God's earthly servants have no real need to be anxious about the next day, it follows that their Creator, to whom mighty nations are as a drop from a bucket, neither had nor has such anxiety.
- So, never be anxious about the next day, for the next day will have its own anxieties. Sufficient for each day is its own badness. (**Matthew 6:34**)
- Look! The nations are as a drop from a bucket. As the film of dust on the scales they have been accounted. Look! He lifts the islands themselves as mere fine dust. (**Isaiah 40:15**)

### ·· Concerning Classes Of Persons

- Cases are also presented in which God did foreknow the course that certain **groups, nations, or the majority of mankind** would take, and thus he foretold the basic course of their future actions and foreordained what corresponding action he would take regarding them.
- However, such **foreknowledge** or **foreordination** does not deprive the individuals within such collective groups or divisions of mankind of

exercising free choice as to the particular course they will follow. This can be seen from the following examples.

- Prior to the Flood of Noah's day, Yehowah announced his purpose to bring about this act of destruction, resulting in loss of human as well as animal life.
- The Biblical account shows, however, that such divine determination was made after the conditions developed that called for such action, including violence and other badness.
- Additionally, God, who is able to, know the heart of the sons of mankind, made examination and found that, every inclination of the thoughts of mankind's heart was only bad all the time.
- Then may you yourself hear from the heavens, the place of your dwelling, and you must forgive and give to each one according to all his ways, because you know his heart, for you yourself alone well know the heart of the sons of mankind. ([2 Chronicles 6:30](#))
- Consequently Yehowah saw that the badness of man was abundant in the earth and every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only bad all the time. ([Genesis 6:5](#))
- Yet **individuals**, Noah and his family, gained God's favor and escaped destruction.
- So Yehowah said; I am going to wipe men whom I have created off the surface of the ground, from man to domestic animal, to moving animal and to flying creature of the heavens, because I do regret that I have made them. ([Genesis 6:7](#))
- But Noah found favor in the eyes of Yehowah. ([Genesis 6:8](#))
- After that Yehowah said to Noah; Go, you and all your household, into the ark, because you are the one I have seen to be righteous before me among this generation. ([Genesis 7:1](#))
- Similarly, although God gave the nation of Israel the opportunity to become a kingdom of priests and a holy nation by keeping his covenant, yet some 40 years later, when the nation was at the borders of the Promised Land, Yehowah foretold that they would break his covenant and, as a nation, would be forsaken by him.



- **This foreknowledge was not without prior basis, however, as national insubordination and rebellion already had been revealed. Hence, God said; For I well know their inclination that they are developing today before I bring them into the land about which I have sworn.**
- **And you yourselves will become to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you are to say to the sons of Israel. (Exodus 19:6)**
- **Yehowah now said to Moses; Look! You are lying down with your forefathers, and this people will certainly get up and have immoral intercourse with foreign gods of the land to which they are going, in their very midst, and they will certainly forsake me and break my covenant that I have concluded with them. (Deuteronomy 31:16)**
- **At that my anger will indeed blaze against them in that day, and I shall certainly forsake them and conceal my face from them, and they must become something to be consumed, and many calamities and distresses must come upon them, and they will be bound to say in that day; Is it not because our God is not in our midst that these calamities have come upon us? (Deuteronomy 31:17)**
- **As for me, I shall absolutely conceal my face in that day because of all the badness that they have done, because they have turned to other gods. (Deuteronomy 31:18)**
- **And it must occur that when many calamities and distresses will come upon them, this song must also answer before them as a witness, because it should not be forgotten out of the mouth of their offspring, for I well know their inclination that they are developing today before I bring them into the land about which I have sworn. (Deuteronomy 31:21)**
- **I, Yehowah, am your God, the One bringing you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I shall fill it. (Psalms 81:10)**
- **But my people has not listened to my voice, and Israel itself has not showed any willingness toward me. (Psalms 81:11)**
- **And so I let them go in the stubbornness of their heart, they**

- went walking in their own counsels. (**Psalms 81:12**)
- O that my people were listening to me. O, that Israel itself would walk in my very ways! (**Psalms 81:13**)
  - The results to which such manifest inclination would now lead in the way of increased wickedness could be **foreknown** by God without its making him responsible for such conditions, even as ones **foreknowing** that a certain structure built of inferior materials and with shoddy workmanship will deteriorate does not make that one responsible for such deterioration. The divine rule governs that what is sown is what will be reaped.
  - Do not be misled! God is not one to be mocked. For whatever a man is sowing, this he will also reap. (**Galatians 6:7**)
  - Because he who is sowing with a view to his flesh will reap corruption from his flesh, but he who is sowing with a view to the spirit will reap everlasting life from the spirit. (**Galatians 6:8**)
  - So let us not give up in doing what is fine, for in due season we shall reap if we do not tire out. (**Galatians 6:9**)
  - Sow seed for yourselves in righteousness. Reap in accord with loving-kindness. Till for yourselves arable land, when there is time for searching for Yehowah until he comes and gives instruction in righteousness to you. (**Hosea 10:12**)
  - You people have plowed wickedness. Unrighteousness is what you have reaped. You have eaten the fruitage of deception, for you have trusted in your way, in the multitude of your mighty ones. (**Hosea 10:13**)
  - Certain prophets delivered prophetic warnings of God's foreordained expressions of judgment, all of which had basis in already existing conditions and heart attitudes.
  - Yehowah himself will pass sentence on the peoples. Judge me, O Yehowah, according to my righteousness and according to my integrity in me. (**Psalms 7:8**)
  - Please, may the badness of wicked ones come to an end, and may you establish the righteous one, and God as righteous is testing out heart and kidneys. (**Psalms 7:9**)

- **The one firmly standing for righteousness is in line for life, but the one chasing after what is bad is in line for his own death. (Proverbs 11:19)**
- **But Yehowah of armies is judging with righteousness, he is examining the kidneys and the heart. O may I see your vengeance on them, for it is to you that I have revealed my case at Law. (Jeremiah 11:20)**
- **Here again, however, individuals could and did respond to God's counsel, reproof, and warnings and so merited his favor.**
- **And to this people you will say; This is what Yehowah has said; Here I am putting before you people the way of life and the way of death. (Jeremiah 21:8)**
- **The one sitting still in this city will die by the sword and by the famine and by the pestilence, but the one who is going out and who actually falls away to the Chaldeans who are laying siege against you will keep living, and his soul will certainly come to be his as a spoil. (Jeremiah 21:9)**
- **And the word of Yehowah proceeded to occur to me, saying; (Ezekiel 33:1)**
- **Son of man, speak to the sons of your people, and you must say to them; As regards a land, in case I bring upon it a sword and the people of the land, one and all, actually take a man and set him as their watchman. (Ezekiel 33:2)**
- **And he really sees the sword coming upon the land and blows the horn and warns the people. (Ezekiel 33:3)**
- **And the hearer actually hears the sound of the horn but he takes no warning at all, and a sword comes and takes him away, his own blood will come to be upon his own head. (Ezekiel 33:4)**
- **The sound of the horn he heard, but he took no warning. His own blood will come to be upon his own self. And had he himself taken warning, his own soul would have escaped. (Ezekiel 33:5)**
- **Now as regards the watchman, in case he sees the sword coming and he actually does not blow the horn and the people itself gets**

- no warning at all and a sword comes and takes away from them soul, for its own error it itself must be taken away, but its blood I shall ask back from the hand of the watchman himself. (**Ezekiel 33:6**)
- Now as regards you, O son of man, a watchman is what I have made you to the house of Israel, and at my mouth you must hear the word and give them warning from me. (**Ezekiel 33:7**)
  - When I say to someone wicked, O wicked one, you will positively die! But you actually do not speak out to warn the wicked one from his way, he himself as a wicked one will die in his own error, but his blood I shall ask back at your own hand. (**Ezekiel 33:8**)
  - But as regards you, in case you actually warn someone wicked from his way for him to turn back from it but he actually does not turn back from his way, he himself will die in his own error, whereas you yourself will certainly deliver your own soul. (**Ezekiel 33:9**)
  - Now as regards you, O son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus you people have said; Because our revolts and our sins are upon us and in them we are rotting away, how, then, shall we keep living? (**Ezekiel 33:10**)
  - Say to them; As I am alive, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah, I take delight, not in the death of the wicked one, but in that someone wicked turns back from his way and actually keeps living. Turn back, turn back from your bad ways, for why is it that you should die, O house of Israel? (**Ezekiel 33:11**)
  - And as for you, O son of man, say to the sons of your people; The righteousness of the righteous one will not itself deliver him in the day of his revolt. But as regards the wickedness of the wicked one, he will not be made to stumble by it in the day of his turning back from his wickedness. Nor will even anyone having righteousness be able to keep living because of it in the day of his sinning. (**Ezekiel 33:12**)
  - When I say to the righteous one; You will positively keep living, and he himself actually trusts in his own righteousness and does injustice, all his own righteous acts will not be remembered, but for his injustice that he has done, for this he will die. (**Ezekiel**

**33:13)**

- **And when I say to the wicked one; You will positively die, and he actually turns back from his sin and carries on justice and righteousness. (Ezekiel 33:14)**
- **And the wicked one returns the very thing pledged, pays back the very things taken by robbery, and actually walks in the very statutes of life by not doing injustice, he will positively keep living. He will not die. (Ezekiel 33:15)**
- **None of his sins with which he has sinned will be remembered against him. Justice and righteousness are what he has carried on. He will positively keep living. (Ezekiel 33:16)**
- **And the sons of your people have said; The way of Yehowah is not adjusted right, but, as for them, it is their way that is not adjusted right. (Ezekiel 33:17)**
- **When someone righteous turns back from his righteousness and actually does injustice, he must also die for them. (Ezekiel 33:18)**
- **And when someone wicked turns back from his wickedness and actually carries on justice and righteousness, it will be on account of them that he himself will keep living. (Ezekiel 33:19)**
- **And you people have said; The way of Yehowah is not adjusted right. It will be each one according to his ways that I shall judge you, O house of Israel. (Ezekiel 33:20)**
- **God's Son, who also could read the hearts of men.**
- **And Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said; Why are you thinking wicked things in your hearts? (Matthew 9:4)**
- **But Jesus, having discerned immediately by his spirit that they were reasoning that way in themselves, said to them; Why are you reasoning these things in your hearts? (Mark 2:8)**
- **But Jesus himself was not entrusting himself to them because of his knowing them all (John 2:24)**
- **And because he was in no need to have anyone bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man. (John 2:25)**

- **Was divinely endowed with powers of foreknowledge and foretold future conditions, events, and expressions of divine judgment. He foretold the judgment of Gehenna for the scribes and Pharisees as a class**

- **Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you traverse sea and dry land to make one proselyte, and when he becomes one you make him a subject for Gehenna twice as much so as yourselves. (Matthew 23:15)**

- **Serpents, offspring of vipers, how are you to flee from the judgment of Gehenna? (Matthew 23:33)**

- **But did not say thereby that each individual Pharisee or scribe was foredoomed to destruction, as the case of the apostle Paul shows.**

- **Indeed, as to the manner of life from youth up that I led from the beginning among my nation and in Jerusalem, all the Jews (Acts of Apostles 26:4)**

- **That have been previously acquainted with me from the first know, if they but wish to bear witness, that according to the strictest sect of our form of worship I lived a Pharisee. (Acts of Apostles 26:5)**

- **Jesus predicted woes for unrepentant Jerusalem and other cities, but he did not indicate that his Father had foreordained that each individual of those cities should so suffer.**

- **Then he started to reproach the cities in which most of his powerful works had taken place, because they did not repent: (Matthew 11:20)**

- **Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! Because if the powerful works had taken place in Tyre and Sidon that took place in you, they would long ago have repented in sackcloth and ashes. (Matthew 11:21)**

- **Consequently I say to you, it will be more endurable for Tyre and Sidon on Judgment Day than for you. (Matthew 11:22)**

- **And you, Capernaum, will you perhaps be exalted to heaven? Down to Hades you will come, because if the powerful works that**

- took place in you had taken place in Sodom, it would have remained until this very day. ([Matthew 11:23](#))
- **And when he got nearby, he viewed the city and wept over it. ([Luke 19:41](#))**
  - **Saying; If you, even you, had discerned in this day the things having to do with peace, but now they have been hid from your eyes. ([Luke 19:42](#))**
  - **Because the days will come upon you when your enemies will build around you a fortification with pointed stakes and will encircle you and distress you from every side. ([Luke 19:43](#))**
  - **And they will dash you and your children within you to the ground, and they will not leave a stone upon a stone in you, because you did not discern the time of your being inspected. ([Luke 19:44](#))**
  - **Furthermore, when you see Jerusalem surrounded by encamped armies, then know that the desolating of her has drawn near. ([Luke 21:20](#))**
  - **Then let those in Judea begin fleeing to the mountains, and let those in the midst of her withdraw, and let those in the country places not enter into her. ([Luke 21:21](#))**
  - **He also foreknew what mankind's inclination and heart attitude would lead to and foretold the conditions that would have developed among mankind by the time of the conclusion of the system of things, as well as the outworkings of God's own purposes.**
  - **While he was sitting upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples approached him privately, saying; Tell us, When will these things be, and what will be the sign of your presence and of the conclusion of the system of things? ([Matthew 24:3](#))**
  - **For then there will be great tribulation such as has not occurred since the world's beginning until now, no, nor will occur again. ([Matthew 24:21](#))**
  - **In fact, unless those days were cut short, no flesh would be saved, but on account of the chosen ones those days will be cut short. ([Matthew 24:22](#))**

- **For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be food shortages and earthquakes in one place after another. (Matthew 24:7)**
- **All these things are a beginning of pangs of distress. (Matthew 24:8)**
- **Then people will deliver you up to tribulation and will kill you, and you will be objects of hatred by all the nations on account of my name. (Matthew 24:9)**
- **Then, also, many will be stumbled and will betray one another and will hate one another. (Matthew 24:10)**
- **And many false prophets will arise and mislead many. (Matthew 24:11)**
- **And because of the increasing of lawlessness the love of the greater number will cool off. (Matthew 24:12)**
- **But he that has endured to the end is the one that will be saved. (Matthew 24:13)**
- **And this Good News of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:14)**
- **Jesus apostles likewise declared prophecies manifesting God's foreknowledge of certain classes, such as the antichrist.**
- **Young children, it is the last hour, and, just as you have heard that antichrist is coming, even now there have come to be many antichrists, from which fact we gain the knowledge that it is the last hour. (1 John 2:18)**
- **They went out from us, but they were not of our sort, for if they had been of our sort, they would have remained with us. But they went out that it might be shown up that not all are of our sort. (1 John 2:19)**
- **For many deceivers have gone forth into the world, persons not confessing Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. (2 John 1:7)**



- **And also the end to which such classes are foreordained.**
- **Let no one seduce you in any manner, because it will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness gets revealed, the son of destruction. (2 Thessalonians 2:3)**
- **He is set in opposition and lifts himself up over everyone who is called god or an object of reverence, so that he sits down in the temple of The God, publicly showing himself to be a god. (2 Thessalonians 2:4)**
- **Do you not remember that, while I was yet with you, I used to tell you these things? (2 Thessalonians 2:5)**
- **And so now you know the thing that acts as a restraint, with a view to his being revealed in his own due time. (2 Thessalonians 2:6)**
- **True, the mystery of this lawlessness is already at work, but only till he who is right now acting as a restraint gets to be out of the way. (2 Thessalonians 2:7)**
- **Then, indeed, the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will do away with by the spirit of his mouth and bring to nothing by the manifestation of his presence. (2 Thessalonians 2:8)**
- **But the lawless ones presence is according to the operation of Satan with every powerful work and lying signs and portents (2 Thessalonians 2:9)**
- **And with every unrighteous deception for those who are perishing, as a retribution because they did not accept the love of the truth that they might be saved. (2 Thessalonians 2:10)**
- **So that is why God lets an operation of error go to them, that they may get to believing the lie. (2 Thessalonians 2:11)**
- **In order, that they all may be judged because they did not believe the truth but took pleasure in unrighteousness. (2 Thessalonians 2:12)**
- **However, there also came to be false prophets among the people,**

as there will also be false teachers among you. These very ones will quietly bring in destructive sects and will disown even the owner that bought them, bringing speedy destruction upon themselves. (**2 Peter 2:1**)

- Furthermore, many will follow their acts of loose conduct, and on account of these the way of the truth will be spoken of abusively. (**2 Peter 2:2**)
- Also, with covetousness they will exploit you with counterfeit words. But as for them, the judgment from of old is not moving slowly, and the destruction of them is not slumbering. (**2 Peter 2:3**)
- My reason is that certain men have slipped in who have long ago been appointed by the Scriptures to this judgment, ungodly men, turning the undeserved kindness of our God into an excuse for loose conduct and proving false to our only Owner and Lord, Jesus Christ. (**Jude 1:4**)

## ·· Concerning Individuals

- In addition to **foreknowledge** concerning classes, certain individuals are specifically involved in divine **forecasts**. These include Esau and Jacob, mentioned earlier, the Pharaoh of the Exodus, Samson, Solomon, Josiah, Jeremiah, Cyrus, John the Baptizer, Judas Iscariot, and God's own Son Jesus.
- In the cases of Samson, Jeremiah, and John the Baptizer, Yehowah exercised **foreknowledge** prior to their birth. This **foreknowledge**, however, did not specify what their final destiny would be.
- Rather, on the basis of such **foreknowledge**, Yehowah **foreordained** that Samson should live according to the Nazirite vow and should initiate the deliverance of Israel from the Philistines, that Jeremiah should serve as a prophet, and that John the Baptizer should do a preparatory work as a forerunner of the Messiah.
- In time Yehowah's angel appeared to the woman and said to her; Look, now, you are barren and have borne no child. And you will certainly become pregnant and give birth to a son. (**Judges 13:3**)
- And now watch yourself, please, and do not drink wine or

intoxicating liquor, and do not eat anything unclean. (**Judges 13:4**)

- **For, look! You will be pregnant, and you will certainly give birth to a son, and no razor should come upon his head, because a Nazirite of God is what the child will become on leaving the belly, and he it is who will take the lead in saving Israel out of the hand of the Philistines. (**Judges 13:5**)**
- **Before I was forming you in the belly I knew you, and before you proceeded to come forth from the womb I sanctified you. Prophet to the nations I made you. (**Jeremiah 1:5**)**
- **However, the angel said to him; Have no fear, Zechariah, because your supplication has been favorably heard, and your wife Elizabeth will become mother to a son to you, and you are to call his name John. (**Luke 1:13**)**
- **And you will have joy and great gladness, and many will rejoice over his birth. (**Luke 1:14**)**
- **For he will be great before Yehowah. But he must drink no wine and strong drink at all, and he will be filled with Holy Spirit right from his mother's womb. (**Luke 1:15**)**
- **And many of the sons of Israel will he turn back to Yehowah their God. (**Luke 1:16**)**
- **Also, he will go before him with Elijah's spirit and power, to turn back the hearts of fathers to children and the disobedient ones to the practical wisdom of righteous ones, to get ready for Yehowah a prepared people. (**Luke 1:17**)**
- **While highly favored by such privileges, this did not guarantee their gaining eternal salvation or even that they would remain faithful until death, although all three did. Thus, Yehowah foretold that one of David's many sons would be named Solomon and he foreordained that Solomon would be used to build the temple.**
- **When your days come to the full, and you must lie down with your forefathers, then I shall certainly raise up your seed after you, which will come out of your inward parts, and I shall indeed firmly establish his kingdom. (**2 Samuel 7:12**)**

- **He is the one that will build a house for my name, and I shall certainly establish the throne of his kingdom firmly to time indefinite. (2 Samuel 7:13)**
- **As regards this house that you are building, if you will walk in my statutes and perform my judicial decisions and actually keep all my commandments by walking in them, I also shall certainly carry out my word with you that I spoke to David your father. (1 Kings 6:12)**
- **Moreover, he called Solomon his son that he might command him to build a house to Yehowah the God of Israel. (1 Chronicles 22:6)**
- **And David went on to say to Solomon his son; As for myself, it became close to my heart to build a house to the name of Yehowah my God. (1 Chronicles 22:7)**
- **But Yehowah's word came against me, saying; Blood in great quantity you have spilled, and great wars you have waged. You will not build a house to my name, for a great deal of blood you have spilled on the earth before me. (1 Chronicles 22:8)**
- **Look! There is a son being born to you. He himself will prove to be a restful man, and I shall certainly give him rest from all his enemies all around, for Solomon is what his name will become, and peace and quietness I shall bestow upon Israel in his days. (1 Chronicles 22:9)**
- **It is he that will build a house to my name, and he himself will become a son to me, and I a father to him. And I shall certainly establish the throne of his kingship firmly over Israel to time indefinite. (1 Chronicles 22:10)**
- **Now, my son, may Yehowah prove to be with you, and you must prove successful and build the house of Yehowah your God, just as he has spoken concerning you. (1 Chronicles 22:11)**
- **Only may Yehowah give you discretion and understanding, and may he give you commandment concerning Israel even to keep the Law of Yehowah your God. (1 Chronicles 22:12)**
- **In that case you will prove successful if you take care to carry out the regulations and the judicial decisions that Yehowah**

commanded Moses respecting Israel. Be courageous and strong. Do not be afraid nor be terrified. (**1 Chronicles 22:13**)

- **And here during my affliction I have prepared for Yehowah's house a hundred thousand talents of gold and a million talents of silver, and the copper and the iron there is no means of weighing because they have come to be in such quantity, and timbers and stones I have prepared, but to them you will make additions. (**1 Chronicles 22:14**)**
- **And with you there are in great number doers of work, stone hewers and workers in stone and wood and every one skillful in every sort of work. (**1 Chronicles 22:15**)**
- **The gold, the silver and the copper and the iron there is no means of numbering. Rise and act, and may Yehowah prove to be with you. (**1 Chronicles 22:16**)**
- **And David went on to command all the princes of Israel to help Solomon his son. (**1 Chronicles 22:17**)**
- **Is not Yehowah your God with you, and has he not given you rest all around? For he has given into my hand the inhabitants of the land, and the land has been subdued before Yehowah and before his people. (**1 Chronicles 22:18**)**
- **Now set your heart and your soul to inquire after Yehowah your God, and rise and build the sanctuary of Yehowah the true God, to bring the ark of the covenant of Yehowah and the holy utensils of the true God to the house built to the name of Yehowah. (**1 Chronicles 22:19**)**
- **However, though favored in this way and even privileged to write certain books of the Holy Scriptures, Solomon nevertheless fell into apostasy in his later years. (**1 Kings 11:4,9-11**)**
- **Likewise with Esau and Jacob, God's foreknowledge did not fix their eternal destinies but, rather, determined, or foreordained, which of the national groups descending from the two sons would gain a dominant position over the other.**
- **And Yehowah proceeded to say to her; Two nations are in your belly, and two national groups will be separated from your inward parts, and the one national group will be stronger than**

- the other national group, and the older will serve the younger. (**Genesis 25:23**)
- Gradually her days came to the full for giving birth, and, look! twins were in her belly. (**Genesis 25:24**)
  - Then the first came out red all over like an official garment of hair, so they called his name Esau. (**Genesis 25:25**)
  - And after that his brother came out and his hand was holding onto the heel of Esau, so he called his name Jacob. And Isaac was sixty years old at her giving them birth. (**Genesis 25:26**)
  - **This foreseen dominance also pointed to the gaining of the right of the firstborn by Jacob, a right that brought along with it the privilege of being in the line of descent through which the Abrahamic seed would come.**
  - **Let peoples serve you and let national groups bow low to you. Become master over your brothers, and let the sons of your mother bow low to you. Cursed be each one of those cursing you, and blessed be each one of those blessing you. (**Genesis 27:29**)**
  - **And, look! There was Yehowah stationed above it, and he proceeded to say; I am Yehowah the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land upon which you are lying, to you I am going to give it and to your seed. (**Genesis 28:13**)**
  - **And your seed will certainly become like the dust particles of the earth, and you will certainly spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and by means of you and by means of your seed all the families of the ground will certainly bless themselves. (**Genesis 28:14**)**
  - **By this means Yehowah God made clear that his choice of individuals for certain uses is not bound by the usual customs or procedures conforming to men's expectations.**
  - **Nor are divinely assigned privileges to be dispensed solely on the basis of works, which might allow a person to feel he has earned the right to such privileges and that they are owed to him.**

- **The apostle Paul stressed this point in showing why God, by undeserved kindness, could grant to the Gentile nations privileges once seemingly reserved for Israel.**
- **I am telling the truth in Christ. I am not lying, since my conscience bears witness with me in Holy Spirit. (Romans 9:1)**
- **That I have great grief and unceasing pain in my heart. (Romans 9:2)**
- **For I could wish that I myself were separated as the cursed one from the Christ in behalf of my brothers, my relatives according to the flesh. (Romans 9:3)**
- **Who, as such, are Israelites, to whom belong the adoption as sons and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the sacred service and the promises. (Romans 9:4)**
- **To whom the forefathers belong and from whom the Christ sprang according to the flesh. God, who is over all, be blessed forever. Amen. (Romans 9:5)**
- **However, it is not as though the word of God had failed. For not all who spring from Israel are really Israel. (Romans 9:6)**
- **Yet not that case alone, but also when Rebekah conceived twins from the one man, Isaac our forefather. (Romans 9:10)**
- **For when they had not yet been born nor had practiced anything good or vile, in order, that the purpose of God respecting the choosing might continue dependent, not upon works, but upon the One who calls. (Romans 9:11)**
- **It was said to her; The older will be the slave of the younger. (Romans 9:12)**
- **Just as it is written: I loved Jacob, but Esau I hated. (Romans 9:13)**
- **What shall we say then? That people of the nations, although not pursuing righteousness, caught up with righteousness, the righteousness that results from faith. (Romans 9:30)**
- **But Israel, although pursuing a Law of righteousness, did not**

attain to the Law. (**Romans 9:31**)

- For what reason? Because he pursued it, not by faith, but as by works. They stumbled on the stone of stumbling. (**Romans 9:32**)
- Paul's quotations concerning Yehowah's love for Jacob, Israel and his hatred for Esau, Edom comes from;
- I have loved you people, Yehowah has said. And you have said; In what way have you loved us? Was not Esau the brother of Jacob? Is the utterance of Yehowah. But I loved Jacob. (**Malachi 1:2**)
- And Esau I have hated. I finally made his mountains a desolated waste and his inheritance for the jackals of the wilderness. (**Malachi 1:3**)
- Written long after Jacob and Esau's time. So the Bible does not necessarily say that Yehowah held such opinion of the twins before their birth.
- It is a scientifically established fact that much of a child's general disposition and temperament is determined at the time of conception because of the genetic factors contributed by each parent. That God can see such factors is self-evident, David speaks of Yehowah as seeing even the embryo of me.
- I shall laud you because in a fear-inspiring way I am wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful, as my soul is very well aware. (**Psalms 139:14**)
- My bones were not hidden from you when I was made in secret, when I was woven in the lowest parts of the earth. (**Psalms 139:15**)
- Your eyes saw even the embryo of me, and in your book all its parts were down in writing, as regards the days when they were formed and there was not yet one among them. (**Psalms 139:16**)
- Just as you are not aware of what is the way of the spirit in the bones in the belly of her that is pregnant, in like manner you do not know the work of the true God, who does all things. (**Ecclesiastes 11:5**)



- **To what extent such divine insight affected Yehowah's foreordination concerning the two boys cannot be said; But at any rate, his choice of Jacob over Esau did not of itself doom Esau or his descendants, the Edomites, to destruction.**
- **Even individuals from among the accursed Canaanites gained the privilege of association with God's covenant people and received blessings.**
- **At this he said; Cursed be Canaan. Let him become the lowest slave to his brothers. ([Genesis 9:25](#))**
- **And he added; Blessed be Yehowah, Shem's God, and let Canaan become a slave to him. ([Genesis 9:26](#))**
- **Let God grant ample space to Japheth, and let him reside in the tents of Shem. Let Canaan become a slave to him also. ([Genesis 9:27](#))**
- **Accordingly Joshua constituted them on that day gatherers of wood and drawers of water for the assembly and for Yehowah's altar, down to this day, at the place that he should choose. ([Joshua 9:27](#))**
- **The change of mind that Esau earnestly sought with tears, however, was only an unsuccessful attempt to change his father Isaac's decision that the firstborns special blessing should remain entirely with Jacob. Hence, this indicated no repentance before God on Esau's part as to his materialistic attitude.**
- **At this Isaac his father said to him; Who are you? To which he said; I am your son, your firstborn, Esau. ([Genesis 27:32](#))**
- **And Isaac began to shake with a great trembling in extreme measure, and so he said; Who, then, was it that hunted for game and came bringing it to me, so that I ate of everything before you could come in and I blessed him? Blessed too he will become! ([Genesis 27:33](#))**
- **On hearing his father's words Esau began to cry out in an extremely loud and bitter manner and to say to his father; Bless me, even me too, my father! ([Genesis 27:34](#))**
- **That there may be no fornicator nor anyone not appreciating**

sacred things, like Esau, who in exchange for one meal gave away his rights as firstborn. ([Hebrews 12:16](#))

- For you know that afterward also when he wanted to inherit the blessing he was rejected, for, although he earnestly sought a change of mind with tears, he found no place for it. ([Hebrews 12:17](#))

### **See Also CANAAN, CANAANITE 2**

- Yehowah's prophecy concerning Josiah called for some descendant of David to be so named, and it foretold his acting against false worship in the city of Bethel.
- And here there was a man of God that had come out of Judah by the word of Yehowah to Bethel, while Jeroboam was standing by the altar to make sacrificial smoke. ([1 Kings 13:1](#))
- Then he called out against the altar by the word of Yehowah and said; O altar, altar, this is what Yehowah has said; Look! A son born to the house of David, whose name is Josiah! And he will certainly sacrifice upon you the priests of the high places that are making sacrificial smoke upon you, and men's bones he will burn upon you. ([1 Kings 13:2](#))
- Over three centuries later a king so named fulfilled this prophecy.
- Eight years old was Josiah when he began to reign, and for thirty-one years he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jedidah the daughter of Adaiah from Bozkath. ([2 Kings 22:1](#))
- And also the altar that was in Bethel, the high place that Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who caused Israel to sin, had made, even that altar and the high place he pulled down. Then he burned the high place, he ground it to dust and burned the sacred pole. ([2 Kings 23:15](#))
- When Josiah turned, he got to see the burial places that were there in the mountain. So he sent and took the bones from the burial places and burned them upon the altar, that he might make it unfit for worship, according to Yehowah's word that the man of the true God had proclaimed, who proclaimed these things. ([2 Kings 23:16](#))

- **On the other hand, he failed to heed the words of Necho from the mouth of God, and this led to his being killed.**
- **After all this when Josiah had prepared the house, Necho the king of Egypt came up to fight at Carchemish by the Euphrates. Then Josiah went out to an encounter with him. (2 Chronicles 35:20)**
- **At that he sent messengers to him, saying; What do I have to do with you, O king of Judah? It is not against you that I am coming today, but it is against another house that my fight is and that God himself said that I should cause disturbance. Refrain for your own sake because of God, who is with me, and do not let him bring you to ruin. (2 Chronicles 35:21)**
- **And Josiah did not turn his face away from him, but to fight against him he disguised himself and did not listen to the words of Necho from the mouth of God. So he came to fight in the valley plain of Megiddo. (2 Chronicles 35:22)**
- **And the shooters got to shoot at King Josiah, so that the king said to his servants; Take me down, for I have been very severely wounded. (2 Chronicles 35:23)**
- **Accordingly his servants took him down from the chariot and had him ride in the second war chariot that was his and brought him to Jerusalem. Thus he died and was buried in the graveyard of his forefathers, and all Judah and Jerusalem were mourning over Josiah. (2 Chronicles 35:24)**
- **Hence, while foreknown by God and foreordained to do a particular work, Josiah was still a free moral agent able to choose to heed or disregard advice.**
- **Similarly, Yehowah foretold nearly two centuries beforehand that he would use a conqueror named Cyrus to effect the release of the Jews from Babylon.**
- **The One making the word of his servant come true, and the One that carries out completely the counsel of his own messengers, the One saying of Jerusalem, She will be inhabited, and of the cities of Judah, They will be rebuilt, and her desolated places I shall raise up. (Isaiah 44:26)**

- **The One saying to the watery deep; Be evaporated! All your rivers I shall dry up. (Isaiah 44:27)**
- **The One saying of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and all that I delight in he will completely carry out, even in my saying of Jerusalem, She will be rebuilt, and of the temple, You will have your foundation laid. (Isaiah 44:28)**
- **This is what Yehowah has said to his anointed one, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have taken hold of, to subdue before him nations, so that I may ungird even the hips of kings, to open before him the two-leaved doors, so that even the gates will not be shut. (Isaiah 45:1)**
- **Before you I myself shall go, and the swells of land I shall straighten out. The copper doors I shall break in pieces, and the iron bars I shall cut down. (Isaiah 45:2)**
- **And I will give you the treasures in the darkness and the hidden treasures in the concealment places, in order, that you may know that I am Yehowah, the One calling you by your name, the God of Israel. (Isaiah 45:3)**
- **For the sake of my servant Jacob and of Israel my chosen one, I even proceeded to call you by your name, I proceeded to give you a name of honor, although you did not know me. (Isaiah 45:4)**
- **I am Yehowah, and there is no one else. With the exception of me there is no God. I shall closely gird you, although you have not known me. (Isaiah 45:5)**
- **In order, that people may know from the rising of the sun and from its setting that there is none besides me. I am Yehowah, and there is no one else. (Isaiah 45:6)**
- **But the Persian to whom that name eventually was given in fulfillment of divine prophecy is not stated in the Bible to have become a genuine worshiper of Yehowah, and secular history shows him continuing his worship of false gods.**
- **These cases of **foreknowledge** prior to the individuals birth thus do not conflict with God's revealed qualities and announced standards.**

**Nor is there any indication that God coerced the individuals to act against their own will.**

- **In the cases of Pharaoh, Judas Iscariot, and God's own Son, there is no evidence that Yehowah's **foreknowledge** was exercised prior to the persons coming into existence. Within these individual cases certain principles are illustrated, bearing on God's **foreknowledge** and foreordination.**

- **One such principle is God's testing of individuals by causing or allowing certain circumstances or events, or by causing such individuals to hear his inspired messages, the result being that they are obliged to exercise their free choice to make a decision and thus reveal a definite heart attitude, read by Yehowah.**

- **Sheol and the place of destruction are in front of Yehowah. How much more so the hearts of the sons of mankind! (**Proverbs 15:11**)**

- **In this fact you are greatly rejoicing, though for a little while at present, if it must be, you have been grieved by various trials. (**1 Peter 1:6**)**

- **In order, that the tested quality of your faith, of much greater value than gold that perishes despite its being proved by fire, may be found a cause for praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (**1 Peter 1:7**)**

- **For the word of God is alive and exerts power and is sharper than any two-edged sword and pierces even to the dividing of soul and spirit, and of joints and their marrow, and is able to discern thoughts and intentions of the heart. (**Hebrews 4:12**)**

- **And there is not a creation that is not manifest to his sight, but all things are naked and openly exposed to the eyes of him with whom we have an accounting. (**Hebrews 4:13**)**

- **According to the way the individuals respond, God can also mold them in the course they have selected of their own volition.**

- **And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a complete heart and with a delightful soul, for all hearts Yehowah is searching, and every inclination of the thoughts he is discerning. If you search for him, he will let**

- himself be found by you, but if you leave him, he will cast you off forever. (**1 Chronicles 28:9**)
- From the heavens Yehowah has looked, he has seen all the sons of men. (**Psalms 33:13**)
  - From the established place where he dwells he has gazed at all those dwelling on the earth. (**Psalms 33:14**)
  - He is forming their hearts all together, he is considering all their works. (**Psalms 33:15**)
  - O Yehowah, you have searched through me, and you know me. (**Psalms 139:1**)
  - You yourself have come to know my sitting down and my rising up. You have considered my thought from far off. (**Psalms 139:2**)
  - My journeying and my lying outstretched you have measured off, and you have become familiar even with all my ways. (**Psalms 139:3**)
  - For there is not a word on my tongue, but, look! O Yehowah, you already know it all. (**Psalms 139:4**)
  - Search through me, O God, and know my heart. Examine me, and know my disquieting thoughts. (**Psalms 139:23**)
  - And see whether there is in me any painful way, and lead me in the way of time indefinite. (**Psalms 139:24**)
  - **Thus, the heart of earthling man first inclines toward a certain way before Yehowah does the directing of the steps of such a one.**
  - The heart of earthling man may think out his way, but Yehowah himself does the directing of his steps. (**Proverbs 16:9**)
  - Create in me even a pure heart, O God, and put within me a new spirit, a steadfast one. (**Psalms 51:10**)
  - **Under testing, ones heart condition can become fixed, either hardened in unrighteousness and rebellion or made firm in unbreakable devotion to Yehowah God and the doing of his will.**

- **And Yehowah went on to say to Satan; Have you set your heart upon my servant Job, that there is no one like him in the earth, a man blameless and upright, fearing God and turning aside from bad? Even yet he is holding fast his integrity, although you incite me against him to swallow him up without cause. (Job 2:3)**
- **But Satan answered Yehowah and said; Skin in behalf of skin, and everything that a man has he will give in behalf of his soul. (Job 2:4)**
- **For a change, thrust out your hand, please, and touch as far as his bone and his flesh and see whether he will not curse you to your very face. (Job 2:5)**
- **Accordingly Yehowah said to Satan; There he is in your hand! Only watch out for his soul itself! (Job 2:6)**
- **So Satan went out away from the person of Yehowah and struck Job with a malignant boil from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. (Job 2:7)**
- **And he proceeded to take for himself a fragment of earthenware with which to scrape himself, and he was sitting in among the ashes. (Job 2:8)**
- **Finally his wife said to him; Are you yet holding fast your integrity? Curse God and die! (Job 2:9)**
- **But he said to her; As one of the senseless women speaks, you speak also. Shall we accept merely what is good from the true God and not accept also what is bad? In all this Job did not sin with his lips. (Job 2:10)**
- **And now say, please, to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem; This is what Yehowah has said; Here I am forming against you a calamity and thinking against you a thought. Turn back, please, each one from his bad way, and make your ways and your dealings good. (Jeremiah 18:11)**
- **And they said; It is hopeless! For after our own thoughts we shall walk, and we are going to carry out each one the stubbornness of his bad heart. (Jeremiah 18:12)**

- Or do you despise the riches of his kindness and forbearance and long-suffering, because you do not know that the kindly quality of God is trying to lead you to repentance? (**Romans 2:4**)
- But according to your hardness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath and of the revealing of God's righteous judgment. (**Romans 2:5**)
- And he will render to each one according to his works. (**Romans 2:6**)
- Everlasting life to those who are seeking glory and honor and incorruptibleness by endurance in work that is good. (**Romans 2:7**)
- However, for those who are contentious and who disobey the truth but obey unrighteousness there will be wrath and anger. (**Romans 2:8**)
- Tribulation and distress, upon the soul of every man who works what is injurious, of the Jew first and also of the Greek. (**Romans 2:9**)
- But glory and honor and peace for everyone who works what is good, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. (**Romans 2:10**)
- For there is no partiality with God. (**Romans 2:11**)
- For this reason, just as the Holy Spirit says; Today if you people listen to his own voice. (**Hebrews 3:7**)
- Beware, brothers, for fear there should ever develop in any one of you a wicked heart lacking faith by drawing away from the living God. (**Hebrews 3:12**)
- But keep on exhorting one another each day, as long as it may be called Today, for fear any one of you should become hardened by the deceptive power of sin. (**Hebrews 3:13**)
- For we actually become partakers of the Christ only if we make fast our hold on the confidence we had at the beginning firm to the end. (**Hebrews 3:14**)
- While it is being said; Today if you people listen to his own voice,



do not harden your hearts as on the occasion of causing bitter anger. ([Hebrews 3:15](#))

- **Having reached such a point of his own choice, the end result of the individuals course can now be foreknown and foretold with no injustice and no violation of man's free moral agency.**
- **Therefore, you men of heart, listen to me. Far be it from the true God to act wickedly, and the Almighty to act unjustly! ([Job 34:10](#))**
- **For according to the way earthling man acts he will reward him, and according to the path of man he will cause it to come upon him. ([Job 34:11](#))**
- **Yes, for a fact, God himself does not act wickedly, and the Almighty himself does not pervert judgment. ([Job 34:12](#))**
- **The case of faithful Abraham, already discussed, illustrates these principles. A contrasting case is that of the unresponsive Pharaoh of the Exodus. Yehowah foreknew that Pharaoh would refuse permission for the Israelites to leave except by a strong hand.**
- **And I, even I, well know that the king of Egypt will not give you permission to go except by a strong hand. ([Exodus 3:19](#))**
- **And I shall have to stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all my wonderful acts that I shall do in the midst of it, and after that he will send you out. ([Exodus 3:20](#))**
- **And he foreordained the plague resulting in the death of the firstborn.**
- **And you must say to Pharaoh; This is what Yehowah has said; Israel is my son, my firstborn. ([Exodus 4:22](#))**
- **And I say to you; Send my son away that he may serve me. But should you refuse to send him away, here I am killing your son, your firstborn. ([Exodus 4:23](#))**
- **The apostle Paul's discussion of God's dealings with Pharaoh is often incorrectly understood to mean that God arbitrarily hardens the heart of individuals according to his foreordained purpose, without regard for the individuals prior inclination, or heart attitude.**

- **What shall we say, then? Is there injustice with God? Never may that become so! (Romans 9:14)**
- **For he says to Moses; I will have mercy upon whomever I do have mercy, and I will show compassion to whomever I do show compassion. (Romans 9:15)**
- **So, then, it depends, not upon the one wishing nor upon the one running, but upon God, who has mercy. (Romans 9:16)**
- **For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: For this very cause I have let you remain, that in connection with you I may show my power, and that my name may be declared in all the earth. (Romans 9:17)**
- **So, then, upon whom he wishes he has mercy, but whom he wishes he lets become obstinate. (Romans 9:18)**
- **Likewise, according to many translations, God advised Moses that he would harden Pharaoh's heart.**
- **And Yehowah went on to say to Moses; After you have gone and returned to Egypt see that you men actually perform all the miracles that I have put in your hand before Pharaoh. As for me, I shall let his heart become obstinate, and he will not send the people away. (Exodus 4:21)**
- **But Yehowah let Pharaoh's heart become obstinate, and he did not listen to them, just as Yehowah had stated to Moses. (Exodus 9:12)**
- **Then Yehowah said to Moses; Go in to Pharaoh, because I, I have let his heart and the hearts of his servants become unresponsive, in order, that I may set these signs of mine right before him. (Exodus 10:1)**
- **At this Yehowah let Pharaoh's heart become obstinate, and he did not consent to send them away. (Exodus 10:27)**
- **However, some translations render the Hebrew account to read that Yehowah let Pharaoh's heart wax bold **Ro**, let Pharaoh's heart become obstinate. **NW****

- In support of such rendering, the appendix to **Rotherham's** translation shows that in **Hebrew** the **occasion or permission** of an event is often presented as if it were the **cause** of the event, and that even **positive commands** are occasionally to be accepted as meaning no more than **permission**.
- However, the midwives feared the true God, and they did not do as the king of Egypt had spoken to them, but they would preserve the male children alive. (**Exodus 1:17**)
- The original **Hebrew** text literally says that the midwives caused the male children to live, whereas in reality they **permitted** them to live by refraining from putting them to death.
- After quoting Hebrew scholars **M. M. Kalisch, H. F. W. Gesenius, and B. Davies** in support, **Rotherham** states; **That the Hebrew sense of the texts involving Pharaoh is that God permitted Pharaoh to harden his own heart spared him gave him the opportunity, the occasion, of working out the wickedness that was in him. That is all. [The Emphasized Bible, appendix, p. 919]**
- **Aha, the Assyrian, the rod for my anger, and the stick that is in their hand for my denunciation! (Isaiah 10:5)**
- **Against an apostate nation I shall send him, and against the people of my fury I shall issue a command to him, to take much spoil and to take much plunder and to make it a trampling place like the clay of the streets. (Isaiah 10:6)**
- **Though he may not be that way, he will feel inclined, though his heart may not be that way, he will scheme, because to annihilate is in his heart, and to cut off nations not a few. (Isaiah 10:7)**
- **Corroborating this understanding is the fact that the record definitely shows that Pharaoh himself hardened his heart, made his heart unresponsive. NW**
- **He thus exercised his own will and followed his own stubborn inclination, the results of which inclination Yehowah accurately foresaw and predicted. The repeated opportunities given him by Yehowah obliged Pharaoh to make decisions, and in doing so he became hardened in his attitude.**

- **Because sentence against a bad work has not been executed speedily, that is why the heart of the sons of men has become fully set in them to do bad. (Ecclesiastes 8:11)**

- **Although a sinner may be doing bad a hundred times and continuing a long time as he pleases, yet I am also aware that it will turn out well with those fearing the true God, because they were in fear of him. (Ecclesiastes 8:12)**

- **As the apostle Paul shows by quoting,**

- **But, in fact, for this cause I have kept you in existence, for the sake of showing you my power and in order to have my name declared in all the earth. (Exodus 9:16)**

- **Yehowah allowed the matter to develop in this way to the full length of ten plagues in order to make manifest his own power and cause his name to be made known earth wide. (Romans 9:17,18)**

#### **·· Did God Predestine Judas To Betray Jesus So As To Fulfill Prophecy**

- **The traitorous course of Judas Iscariot fulfilled divine prophecy and demonstrated Yehowah's **foreknowledge** as well as that of his Son.**

- **Also the man at peace with me, in whom I trusted, who was eating my bread, has magnified his heel against me. (Psalms 41:9)**

- **For it was not an enemy that proceeded to reproach me, otherwise I could put up with it. It was not an intense hater of me that assumed great airs against me, otherwise I could conceal myself from him. (Psalms 55:12)**

- **But it was you, a mortal man who was as my equal, one familiar to me and my acquaintance. (Psalms 55:13)**

- **Let his days prove to be few, his office of oversight let someone else take. (Psalms 109:8)**

- **Men, brothers, it was necessary for the scripture to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by David's mouth about Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. (Acts of Apostles 1:16)**

- Because he had been numbered among us and he obtained a share in this ministry. (**Acts of Apostles 1:17**)
- This very man, therefore, purchased a field with the wages for unrighteousness, and pitching head foremost he noisily burst in his midst and all his intestines were poured out. (**Acts of Apostles 1:18**)
- It also became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that that field was called in their language Akeldama, that is, **Field of Blood**. (**Acts of Apostles 1:19**)
- For it is written in the book of Psalms: Let his lodging place become desolate, and let there be no dweller in it, and, His office of oversight let someone else take. (**Acts of Apostles 1:20**)
- Yet it cannot be said that God **foreordained** or **predestinated** Judas himself to such a course. The prophecies foretold that some intimate acquaintance of Jesus would be his betrayer, but they did not specify which of those sharing such acquaintance it would be.
- Again, Bible principles rule against God's having **foreordained** Judas actions. The divine standard stated by the apostle is;
  - Never lay your hands hastily upon any man. Neither be a sharer in the sins of others. Preserve yourself chaste. (**1 Timothy 5:22**)
  - Not a newly converted man, for fear that he might get puffed up with pride and fall into the judgment passed upon the Devil. (**1 Timothy 3:6**)
- Evidencing his concern that the selection of his 12 apostles be wisely and properly made, Jesus spent the night in prayer to his Father before making known his decision.
  - In the progress of these days he went out into the mountain to pray, and he continued the whole night in prayer to God. (**Luke 6:12**)
  - But when it became day he called his disciples to him and chose from among them twelve, whom he also named apostles. (**Luke 6:13**)
  - Simon, whom he also named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and

- James and John, and Philip and Bartholomew. ([Luke 6:14](#))
- And Matthew and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who is called the zealous one. ([Luke 6:15](#))
  - And Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who turned traitor. ([Luke 6:16](#))
  - If Judas were already divinely foreordained to be a traitor, this would result in inconsistency in God's direction and guidance and, according to the rule, would make him a sharer in the sins that one committed.
  - Thus, it seems evident that at the time of his being selected as an apostle, Judas heart presented no definite evidence of a treasonous attitude. He allowed a poisonous root to spring up and defile him, resulting in his deviation and in his accepting, not God's direction, but the Devils leading in a course of thievery and treachery.
  - Pursue peace with all people, and the sanctification without which no man will see the Lord. ([Hebrews 12:14](#))
  - Carefully watching that no one may be deprived of the undeserved kindness of God, that no poisonous root may spring up and cause trouble and that many may not be defiled by it. ([Hebrews 12:15](#))
  - So, while the evening meal was going on, the Devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray him. ([John 13:2](#))
  - And they prayed and said; You, O Yehowah, who know the hearts of all, designate which one of these two men you have chosen. ([Acts of Apostles 1:24](#))
  - To take the place of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas deviated to go to his own place. ([Acts of Apostles 1:25](#))
  - But each one is tried by being drawn out and enticed by his own desire. ([James 1:14](#))
  - Then the desire, when it has become fertile, gives birth to sin, in turn, sin, when it has been accomplished, brings forth death. ([James 1:15](#))

- **By the time such deviation reached a certain point, Jesus himself could read Judas heart and foretell his betrayal.**
- **Now, because he knew before the festival of the Passover that his hour had come for him to move out of this world to the Father, Jesus, having loved his own that were in the world, loved them to the end. (John 13:1)**

#### **See Also JUDAS 4**

- **True, in the account at;**
- **But there are some of you that do not believe. For from the beginning Jesus knew who were the ones not believing and who was the one that would betray him. (John 6:64)**
- **On the occasion of some disciples stumbling over certain teachings of Jesus, we read that from the beginning, from the outset. JB Jesus knew who were the ones not believing and who was the one that would betray him. While the word beginning Greek, *ar-khe'* is used at;**
- **And saying; Where is this promised presence of his? Why, from the day our forefathers fell asleep in death, all things are continuing exactly as from creation's beginning. (2 Peter 3:4)**
- **To refer to the start of creation, it can also refer to other times.**
- **Just as those who from the beginning became eyewitnesses and attendants of the message delivered these to us. (Luke 1:2)**
- **And you, in turn, are to bear witness, because you have been with me from when I began. (John 15:27)**
- **For example, when the apostle Peter spoke of the Holy Spirit falling on Gentiles just as it did also upon us in the beginning, he obviously was not referring to the beginning of his discipleship or apostleship but to an important point in his ministry, the day of Pentecost, 33 C.E, the beginning of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit for a certain purpose.**
- **But when I started to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it did also upon us in the beginning. (Acts of Apostles 11:15)**

- **Now while the day of the festival of Pentecost was in progress they were all together at the same place. (Acts of Apostles 2:1)**
- **And suddenly there occurred from heaven a noise just like that of a rushing stiff breeze, and it filled the whole house in which they were sitting. (Acts of Apostles 2:2)**
- **And tongues as if of fire became visible to them and were distributed about, and one sat upon each one of them. (Acts of Apostles 2:3)**
- **And they all became filled with Holy Spirit and started to speak with different tongues, just as the spirit was granting them to make utterance. (Acts of Apostles 2:4)**
- **It is therefore interesting to note this comment on;**
- **But there are some of you that do not believe. For from the beginning Jesus knew who were the ones not believing and who was the one that would betray him. (John 6:64)**
- **In Lange's Commentary on the Holy Scriptures (p. 227): Beginning means not, metaphysically from the beginning of all things, nor from the beginning of His, Jesus', acquaintance with each one, nor from the beginning of His collecting of the disciples around Him, or the beginning of His Messianic ministry, but from the first secret germs of unbelief that produced the stumbling of some disciples. So also He knew His betrayer from the beginning. [Translated and edited by P. Schaff, 1976]**
- **He who carries on sin originates with the Devil, because the Devil has been sinning from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was made manifest, namely, to break up the works of the Devil. (1 John 3:8)**
- **For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should have love for one another. (1 John 3:11)**
- **Not like Cain, who originated with the wicked one and slaughtered his brother. And for the sake of what did he slaughter him? Because his own works were wicked, but those of his brother were righteous. (1 John 3:12)**



## •• Foreordination Of The Messiah

- **Yehowah God foreknew and foretold the Messiah's sufferings, the death he would undergo, and his subsequent resurrection.**
- **Men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus the Nazarene, a man publicly shown by God to you through powerful works and portents and signs that God did through him in your midst, just as you yourselves know. (Acts of Apostles 2:22)**
- **This man, as one delivered up by the determined counsel and foreknowledge of God, you fastened to a stake by the hand of lawless men and did away with. (Acts of Apostles 2:23)**
- **Therefore, because he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath that he would seat one from the fruitage of his loins upon his throne. (Acts of Apostles 2:30)**
- **He saw beforehand and spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was he forsaken in Hades nor did his flesh see corruption. (Acts of Apostles 2:31)**
- **But in this way God has fulfilled the things he announced beforehand through the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer. (Acts of Apostles 3:18)**
- **Concerning this very salvation a diligent inquiry and a careful search were made by the prophets who prophesied about the undeserved kindness meant for you. (1 Peter 1:10)**
- **They kept on investigating what particular season or what sort of season the spirit in them was indicating concerning Christ when it was bearing witness beforehand about the sufferings for Christ and about the glories to follow these. (1 Peter 1:11)**
- **The realization of things determined by God's exercise of such foreknowledge depended in part upon God's own exercise of power and in part upon the actions of men.**
- **Even so, both Herod and Pontius Pilate with men of nations and with peoples of Israel were in actuality gathered together in this city against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. (Acts of Apostles 4:27)**

- In order to do what things your hand and counsel had foreordained to occur. (**Acts of Apostles 4:28**)
- Such men, however, willingly allowed themselves to be overreached by God's Adversary, Satan the Devil.
- Jesus said to them; If God were your Father, you would love me, for from God I came forth and am here. Neither have I come of my own initiative at all, but that One sent me forth. (**John 8:42**)
- Why is it you do not know what I am speaking? Because you cannot listen to my word. (**John 8:43**)
- You are from your father the Devil, and you wish to do the desires of your father. That one was a manslayer when he began, and he did not stand fast in the truth, because truth is not in him. When he speaks the lie, he speaks according to his own disposition, because he is a liar and the father of the lie. (**John 8:44**)
- Obstinate men and uncircumcised in hearts and ears, you are always resisting the Holy Spirit. As your forefathers did, so you do. (**Acts of Apostles 7:51**)
- Which one of the prophets did your forefathers not persecute? Yes, they killed those who made announcement in advance concerning the coming of the righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become. (**Acts of Apostles 7:52**)
- You who received the Law as transmitted by angels but have not kept it. (**Acts of Apostles 7:53**)
- Well, at hearing these things they felt cut to their hearts and began to gnash their teeth at him. (**Acts of Apostles 7:54**)
- Hence, even as Christians in Paul's day were not ignorant of Satan's designs, God foresaw the wicked desires and methods the Devil would devise against Jesus Christ, God's Anointed One.
- That we may not be overreached by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his designs. (**2 Corinthians 2:11**)

- Obviously, God's power could also thwart or even block any attacks or attempts upon the Messiah that did not conform to the manner or time prophesied.
- From that time forward Jesus Christ commenced showing his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the older men and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised up. (**Matthew 16:21**)
- Now all those hearing these things in the synagogue became filled with anger. (**Luke 4:28**)
- And they rose up and hurried him outside the city, and they led him to the brow of the mountain upon which their city had been built, in order to throw him down headlong. (**Luke 4:29**)
- But he went through the midst of them and continued on his way. (**Luke 4:30**)
- As the days were now coming to the full for him to be taken up, he firmly set his face to go to Jerusalem. (**Luke 9:51**)
- Now after these things Jesus continued walking about in Galilee, for he did not want to walk about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him. (**John 7:1**)
- Therefore Jesus said to them; My due time is not yet present, but your due time is always at hand. (**John 7:6**)
- The world has no reason to hate you, but it hates me, because I bear witness concerning it that its works are wicked. (**John 7:7**)
- You go up to the festival. I am not yet going up to this festival, because my due time has not yet fully come. (**John 7:8**)
- Therefore they picked up stones to hurl them at him, but Jesus hid and went out of the temple. (**John 8:59**)
- The apostle Peter's statement that Christ, as the sacrificial Lamb of God, was **foreknown** before the founding form of **Greek**, *ka-ta-bo-le'* of the world *ko'smou* is construed by advocates of **predestinarianism** to mean that God exercised such **foreknowledge** before mankind's creation.

- But it was with precious blood, like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb, even Christ's. (**1 Peter 1:19**)
- True, he was **foreknown** before the founding of the world, but he was made manifest at the end of the times for the sake of you (**1 Peter 1:20**)
- The **Greek** word *ka-ta-bo-le'*, translated founding, literally means **a throwing down** and can refer to the **conceiving of seed**, as at;
- By faith also Sarah herself received power to conceive seed, even when she was past the age limit, since she esteemed him faithful who had promised. (**Hebrews 11:11**)
- While there was the founding of a world of mankind when God created the first human pair, as is shown at;
- For we who have exercised faith do enter into the rest, just as he has said; So I swore in my anger; They shall not enter into my rest, although his works were finished from the founding of the world. (**Hebrews 4:3**)
- For in one place he has said of the seventh day as follows. And God rested on the seventh day from all his works. (**Hebrews 4:4**)
- That pair thereafter forfeited their position as children of God.
- And Yehowah God went on to say; Here the man has become like one of us in knowing good and bad, and now in order, that he may not put his hand out and actually take fruit also from the tree of life and eat and live to time indefinite. (**Genesis 3:22**)
- With that Yehowah God put him out of the garden of Eden to cultivate the ground from which he had been taken. (**Genesis 3:23**)
- And so he drove the man out and posted at the east of the garden of Eden the cherubs and the flaming blade of a sword that was turning itself continually to guard the way to the tree of life. (**Genesis 3:24**)
- That is why, just as through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men because they had all sinned. (**Romans 5:12**)

- **Yet, by God's undeserved kindness, they were allowed to conceive seed and produce offspring, one of whom is specifically shown in the Bible to have gained God's favor and placed himself in position for redemption and salvation, namely, Abel.**
- **Now Adam had intercourse with Eve his wife and she became pregnant. In time she gave birth to Cain and said; I have produced a man with the aid of Yehowah. ([Genesis 4:1](#))**
- **Later she again gave birth, to his brother Abel. And Abel came to be a herder of sheep, but Cain became a cultivator of the ground. ([Genesis 4:2](#))**
- **By faith Abel offered God a sacrifice of greater worth than Cain, through which faith he had witness borne to him that he was righteous, God bearing witness respecting his gifts, and through it he, although he died, yet speaks. ([Hebrews 11:4](#))**
- **It is noteworthy that at;**
- **On this account the wisdom of God also said; I will send forth to them prophets and apostles, and they will kill and persecute some of them. ([Luke 11:49](#))**
- **So that the blood of all the prophets spilled from the founding of the world may be required from this generation. ([Luke 11:50](#))**
- **From the blood of Abel down to the blood of Zechariah, who was slain between the altar and the house. Yes, I tell you, it will be required from this generation. ([Luke 11:51](#))**
- **Jesus refers to the blood of all the prophets spilled from the founding of the world and parallels this with the words from the blood of Abel down to the blood of Zechariah. Thus, Abel is connected by Jesus with the founding of the world.**
- **The Messiah, or Christ, was to be the promised Seed through whom all righteous persons of all the families of the earth would be blessed.**
- **Now the Scripture, seeing in advance that God would declare people of the nations righteous due to faith, declared the Good News beforehand to Abraham, namely; By means of you all the**

nations will be blessed. (**Galatians 3:8**)

- The purpose was that the blessing of Abraham might come to be by means of Jesus Christ for the nations, that we might receive the promised spirit through our faith. (**Galatians 3:14**)
- The first mention of such seed came after the rebellion in Eden had already been initiated, but prior to the birth of Abel.
- And I shall put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed. He will bruise you in the head and you will bruise him in the heel. (**Genesis 3:15**)
- This was some 4,000 years before the revelation of the sacred secret was made by the clear identification of that Messianic seed. Hence, it was, indeed, kept in silence for long-lasting times.
- Now to him who can make you firm in accord with the Good News I declare and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the sacred secret which has been kept in silence for long-lasting times (**Romans 16:25**)
- But has now been made manifest and has been made known through the prophetic scriptures among all the nations in accord with the command of the everlasting God to promote obedience by faith. (**Romans 16:26**)
- To God, wise alone, be the glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen. (**Romans 16:27**)
- This he caused to abound toward us in all wisdom and good sense. (**Ephesians 1:8**)
- In that he made known to us the sacred secret of his will. It is according to his good pleasure which he purposed in himself (**Ephesians 1:9**)
- For an administration at the full limit of the appointed times, namely, to gather all things together again in the Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth. Yes, in him. (**Ephesians 1:10**)
- In the face of this you, when you read this, can realize the comprehension I have in the sacred secret of the Christ.

**(Ephesians 3:4)**

- In other generations this secret was not made known to the sons of men as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by spirit. **(Ephesians 3:5)**
- Namely, that people of the nations should be joint heirs and fellow members of the body and partakers with us of the promise in union with Christ Jesus through the Good News. **(Ephesians 3:6)**
- I became a minister of this according to the free gift of the undeserved kindness of God that was given me according to the way his power operates. **(Ephesians 3:7)**
- To me, a man less than the least of all holy ones, this undeserved kindness was given, that I should declare to the nations the Good News about the unfathomable riches of the Christ **(Ephesians 3:8)**
- And should make men see how the sacred secret is administered which has from the indefinite past been hidden in God, who created all things. **(Ephesians 3:9)**
- This was to the end that now to the governments and the authorities in the heavenly places there might be made known through the congregation the greatly diversified wisdom of God. **(Ephesians 3:10)**
- According to the eternal purpose that he formed in connection with the Christ, Jesus our Lord. **(Ephesians 3:11)**
- In his due time Yehowah God assigned his own firstborn Son to fulfill the prophesied role of the seed and become the Messiah. There is nothing to show that that Son was **predestined** to such a role even before his creation or before rebellion broke out in Eden.
- God's eventual selection of him as the one charged with fulfilling the prophecies likewise was not made without prior basis. The period of intimate association between God and his Son previous to the Sons being sent to earth undoubtedly resulted in Yehowah's knowing his Son to an extent that He could be certain of his Sons faithful fulfillment of the prophetic promises and pictures.

- Now may the God who supplies endurance and comfort grant you to have among yourselves the same mental attitude that Christ Jesus had. (**Romans 15:5**)
- Keep this mental attitude in you that was also in Christ Jesus. (**Philippians 2:5**)
- Who, although he was existing in God's form, gave no consideration to a seizure, namely, that he should be equal to God. (**Philippians 2:6**)
- No, but he emptied himself and took a slaves form and came to be in the likeness of men. (**Philippians 2:7**)
- More than that, when he found himself in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient as far as death, yes, death on a torture stake. (**Philippians 2:8**)
- All things have been delivered to me by my Father, and no one fully knows the Son but the Father, neither does anyone fully know the Father but the Son and anyone to whom the Son is willing to reveal him. (**Matthew 11:27**)
- I am the fine shepherd, and I know my sheep and my sheep know me. (**John 10:14**)
- Just as the Father knows me and I know the Father, and I surrender my soul in behalf of the sheep. (**John 10:15**)

**See Also JESUS CHRIST (Tested and Perfected)**

### **· Foreordination Of The Called And Chosen**

- There remain those texts that deal with the Christian **called ones**, or **chosen ones**.
- Jude, a slave of Jesus Christ, but a brother of James, to the called ones who are loved in relationship with God the Father and preserved for Jesus Christ. (**Jude 1:1**)
- For false Christ's and false prophets will arise and will give great signs and wonders so as to mislead, if possible, even the chosen ones. (**Matthew 24:24**)



- They are described as chosen according to the **foreknowledge** of God.
- Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the temporary residents scattered about in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, to the ones **chosen** (**1 Peter 1:1**)
- According to the **foreknowledge** of God the Father, with sanctification by the spirit, for the purpose of their being obedient and sprinkled with the blood of Jesus Christ. May undeserved kindness and peace be increased to you. (**1 Peter 1:2**)
- Chosen before the founding of the world, **foreordained** to the adoption as sons of God.
- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in union with Christ. (**Ephesians 1:3**)
- Just as he chose us in union with him before the founding of the world, that we should be holy and without blemish before him in love. (**Ephesians 1:4**)
- For he foreordained us to the adoption through Jesus Christ as sons to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will. (**Ephesians 1:5**)
- In union with whom we were also assigned as heirs, in that we were foreordained according to the purpose of him who operates all things according to the way his will counsels. (**Ephesians 1:11**)
- Selected from the beginning for salvation and called to this very destiny.
- However, we are obligated to thank God always for you, brothers loved by Yehowah, because God selected you from the beginning for salvation by sanctifying you with spirit and by your faith in the truth. (**2 Thessalonians 2:13**)
- To this very destiny he called you through the Good News we declare, for the purpose of acquiring the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (**2 Thessalonians 2:14**)

- **The understanding of these texts depends upon whether they refer to the foreordination of certain individual persons or whether they describe the foreordination of a class of persons, namely, the Christian congregation, the one body.**
- **Because there is one loaf, we, although many, are one body, for we are all partaking of that one loaf. (1 Corinthians 10:17)**
- **Of those who will be joint heirs with Christ Jesus in his heavenly Kingdom.**
- **He also subjected all things under his feet, and made him head over all things to the congregation. (Ephesians 1:22)**
- **Which is his body, the fullness of him who fills up all things in all. (Ephesians 1:23)**
- **Certainly, therefore, you are no longer strangers and alien residents, but you are fellow citizens of the holy ones and are members of the household of God. (Ephesians 2:19)**
- **And you have been built up upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, while Christ Jesus himself is the foundation cornerstone. (Ephesians 2:20)**
- **In union with him the whole building, being harmoniously joined together, is growing into a holy temple for Yehowah. (Ephesians 2:21)**
- **In union with him you, too, are being built up together into a place for God to inhabit by spirit. (Ephesians 2:22)**
- **Consequently, holy brothers, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the apostle and High Priest whom we confess, Jesus. (Hebrews 3:1)**
- **And Moses as an attendant was faithful in all the house of that One as a testimony of the things that were to be spoken afterwards. (Hebrews 3:5)**
- **But Christ was faithful as a Son over the house of that One. We are the house of that One, if we make fast our hold on our freeness of speech and our boasting over the hope firm to the**

end. ([Hebrews 3:6](#))

- **If these words apply to specific individuals as foreordained to eternal salvation, then it follows that those individuals could never prove unfaithful or fail in their calling, for God's foreknowledge of them could not prove inaccurate and his foreordination of them to a certain destiny could never miscarry or be thwarted.**

- **Yet the same apostles who were inspired to write the foregoing words showed that some who were bought and sanctified by the blood of Christ's ransom sacrifice and who had tasted the heavenly free gift and become partakers of Holy Spirit, and powers of the coming system of things would fall away beyond repentance and bring destruction upon themselves.**

- **However, there also came to be false prophets among the people, as there will also be false teachers among you. These very ones will quietly bring in destructive sects and will disown even the owner that bought them, bringing speedy destruction upon themselves. ([2 Peter 2:1](#))**

- **Furthermore, many will follow their acts of loose conduct, and on account of these the way of the truth will be spoken of abusively. ([2 Peter 2:2](#))**

- **Certainly if, after having escaped from the defilements of the world by an accurate knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they get involved again with these very things and are overcome, the final conditions have become worse for them than the first. ([2 Peter 2:20](#))**

- **For it would have been better for them not to have accurately known the path of righteousness than after knowing it accurately to turn away from the holy commandment delivered to them. ([2 Peter 2:21](#))**

- **The saying of the true proverb has happened to them. The dog has returned to its own vomit, and the sow that was bathed to rolling in the mire. ([2 Peter 2:22](#))**

- **For it is impossible as regards those who have once for all been enlightened, and who have tasted the heavenly free gift, and who have become partakers of Holy Spirit. ([Hebrews 6:4](#))**

- **And who have tasted the fine word of God and powers of the coming system of things. (Hebrews 6:5)**
- **But who have fallen away, to revive them again to repentance, because they impale the Son of God afresh for themselves and expose him to public shame. (Hebrews 6:6)**
- **For if we practice sin willfully after having received the accurate knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice for sins left. (Hebrews 10:26)**
- **But there is a certain fearful expectation of judgment and there is a fiery jealousy that is going to consume those in opposition. (Hebrews 10:27)**
- **Any man that has disregarded the Law of Moses dies without compassion, upon the testimony of two or three. (Hebrews 10:28)**
- **Of how much more severe a punishment, do you think, will the man be counted worthy who has trampled upon the Son of God and who has esteemed as of ordinary value the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and who has outraged the spirit of undeserved kindness with contempt? (Hebrews 10:29)**
- **The apostles unitedly urged those to whom they wrote.**
- **For this reason, brothers, all the more do your utmost to make the calling and choosing of you sure for yourselves. For if you keep on doing these things you will by no means ever fail. (2 Peter 1:10)**
- **In fact, thus there will be richly supplied to you the entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:11)**
- **Consequently, my beloved ones, in the way that you have always obeyed, not during my presence only, but now much more readily during my absence, keep working out your own salvation with fear and trembling. (Philippians 2:12)**
- **For God is the one that, for the sake of his good pleasure, is acting within you in order for you both to will and to act. (Philippians 2:13)**

- **Keep doing all things free from murmurings and arguments. (Philippians 2:14)**
- **That you may come to be blameless and innocent, children of God without a blemish in among a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you are shining as illuminators in the world. (Philippians 2:15)**
- **Keeping a tight grip on the word of life, that I may have cause for exultation in Christ's day, that I did not run in vain or work hard in vain. (Philippians 2:16)**
- **Paul, who was called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ.**
- **Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through God's will, and Sosthenes our brother (1 Corinthians 1:1)**
- **Obviously did not consider himself individually predestinated to eternal salvation, since he speaks of his strenuous efforts in striving to attain the goal for the prize of the upward call of God**
- **Why, for that matter, I do indeed also consider all things to be loss on account of the excelling value of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord. On account of him I have taken the loss of all things and I consider them as a lot of refuse, that I may gain Christ (Philippians 3:8)**
- **And be found in union with him, having, not my own righteousness, which results from Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness that issues from God on the basis of faith. (Philippians 3:9)**
- **So as to know him and the power of his resurrection and a sharing in his sufferings, submitting myself to a death like his. (Philippians 3:10)**
- **To see if I may by any means attain to the earlier resurrection from the dead. (Philippians 3:11)**
- **Not that I have already received it or am already made perfect, but I am pursuing to see if I may also lay hold on that for which I have also been laid hold on by Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:12)**

- **Brothers, I do not yet consider myself as having laid hold on it, but there is one thing about it. Forgetting the things behind and stretching forward to the things ahead. (Philippians 3:13)**
- **I am pursuing down toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God by means of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:14)**
- **Let us, then, as many of us as are mature, be of this mental attitude, and if you are mentally inclined otherwise in any respect, God will reveal the above attitude to you. (Philippians 3:15)**
- **And his concern lest he himself should become disapproved somehow.**
- **But I pummel my body and lead it as a slave, that, after I have preached to others, I myself should not become disapproved somehow. (1 Corinthians 9:27)**
- **Similarly, the crown of life offered such ones is granted subject to their faithfulness under trial until death.**
- **Do not be afraid of the things you are about to suffer. Look! The Devil will keep on throwing some of you into prison that you may be fully put to the test, and that you may have tribulation ten days. Prove yourself faithful even to death, and I will give you the crown of life. (Revelation 2:10)**
- **And her children I will kill with deadly plague, so that all the congregations will know that I am he who searches the kidneys and hearts, and I will give to you individually according to your deeds. (Revelation 2:23)**
- **Happy is the man that keeps on enduring trial, because on becoming approved he will receive the crown of life, which Yehowah promised to those who continue loving him. (James 1:12)**
- **Their crowns of kingship with God's Son can be lost.**
- **I am coming quickly. Keep on holding fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. (Revelation 3:11)**

- **The apostle Paul expressed confidence that the crown of righteousness was reserved for him, but he only did so when he was certain that he was nearing the end of his course, having run it to the finish.**
- **For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the due time for my releasing is imminent. (2 Timothy 4:6)**
- **I have fought the fine fight, I have run the course to the finish, I have observed the faith. (2 Timothy 4:7)**
- **From this time on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me as a reward in that day, yet not only to me, but also to all those who have loved his manifestation. (2 Timothy 4:8)**
- **On the other hand, viewed as applying to a class, to the Christian congregation, or holy nation of called ones as a whole**
- **But you are, a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for special possession, that you should declare abroad the excellencies, of the one that called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9)**
- **The texts previously cited would mean that God foreknew and foreordained that such a class, but not the specific individuals forming it, would be produced.**
- **Also, these scriptures would mean that he prescribed, or foreordained, the pattern to which all those in due time called to be members thereof would have to conform, all of this according to his purpose.**
- **Now we know that God makes all his works cooperate together for the good of those who love God, those who are the ones called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)**
- **Because those whom he gave his first recognition he also foreordained to be patterned after the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. (Romans 8:29)**
- **Moreover, those whom he foreordained are the ones he also called, and those whom he called are the ones he also declared to be righteous. Finally those whom he declared righteous are the**

ones he also glorified. (**Romans 8:30**)

- **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in union with Christ. (**Ephesians 1:3**)**
- **Just as he chose us in union with him before the founding of the world, that we should be holy and without blemish before him in love. (**Ephesians 1:4**)**
- **For he **foreordained** us to the adoption through Jesus Christ as sons to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will. (**Ephesians 1:5**)**
- **In praise of his glorious undeserved kindness which he kindly conferred upon us by means of his loved one. (**Ephesians 1:6**)**
- **By means of him we have the release by ransom through the blood of that one, yes, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his undeserved kindness. (**Ephesians 1:7**)**
- **This he caused to abound toward us in all wisdom and good sense. (**Ephesians 1:8**)**
- **In that he made known to us the sacred secret of his will. It is according to his good pleasure which he purposed in himself (**Ephesians 1:9**)**
- **For an administration at the full limit of the appointed times, namely, to gather all things together again in the Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth. Yes, in him. (**Ephesians 1:10**)**
- **In union with whom we were also assigned as heirs, in that we were foreordained according to the purpose of him who operates all things according to the way his will counsels. (**Ephesians 1:11**)**
- **That we should serve for the praise of his glory, we who have been first to hope in the Christ. (**Ephesians 1:12**)**
- **He saved us and called us with a holy calling, not by reason of our works, but by reason of his own purpose and undeserved**



kindness. This was given us in connection with Christ Jesus before times long lasting. (**2 Timothy 1:9**)

- But now it has been made clearly evident through the manifestation of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has abolished death but has shed light upon life and incorruption through the Good News. (**2 Timothy 1:10**)
- He also foreordained the works such ones would be expected to carry out and their being tested because of the sufferings the world would bring upon them.
- For we are a product of his work and were created in union with Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance for us to walk in them. (**Ephesians 2:10**)
- That no one might be swayed by these tribulations. For you yourselves know we are appointed to this very thing. (**1 Thessalonians 3:3**)
- In fact, too, when we were with you, we used to tell you beforehand that we were destined to suffer tribulation, just as it has also happened and as you know. (**1 Thessalonians 3:4**)
- As to those texts referring to names being written in the book of life.

**See Also NAME**

### •• Fatalism And Predestinarianism

- Among the pagan peoples of ancient times, including the Greeks and Romans, ones **fate**, particularly the length of the individuals life, was often considered to **be determined beforehand for all individuals** by the gods.
- Grecian mythology represented the control of men's destiny by three goddesses, *Clotho* or spinner, who spun the thread of life, *Lachesis* or disposer of lots, who determined the length of life, and *Atropos* or inflexible, who cut life off when the time expired. A similar triad was found among the Roman deities.
- According to Jewish historian Josephus, **First Century C.E.**, the Pharisees endeavored to harmonize the idea of **fate** with their belief in

**God and with the free moral agency granted to man. [The Jewish War, II, 162,163, viii, 14], Jewish Antiquities, XVIII, 13,14,i, 3]**

- **The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge says: Previous to Augustine, of the Fourth and Fifth Centuries C.E, there was no serious development in Christianity of a theory of predestination.**
- **Before Augustine, earlier so-called Church Fathers such as Justin, Origen, and Irenaeus know nothing of unconditional predestination, they teach free will. [Hastings Encyclopaedia of Religion and Ethics, 1919, Vol. X, p. 231]**
- **In their refutation of Gnosticism, they are described as regularly expressing their belief in the free moral agency of man as the distinguishing characteristic of human personality, the basis of moral responsibility, a divine gift whereby man might choose that which was well-pleasing to God, and as speaking of the autonomy of man and the counsel of God who constraineth not. [The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge, edited by S. Jackson, 1957, Vol. IX, pp. 192,193]**