

PREDESTINED

Let me start by sharing a couple verses from Isaiah 46.

I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me. I declare the end from the beginning, and ancient times from what is still to come. I say, "My purpose will stand, and all My good pleasure I will accomplish." Truly I have spoken, and truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, and I will surely do it.

Now, someone may ask the question how can He know the end from the beginning?

In Revelation 1.8 He declares "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and was and is to come—the Almighty. God IS the beginning and the end and He knows the end from the beginning because He predestined how it will be.

Now, I'm not any kind of Bible scholar, but I did look up the word translated as predestined. It's the Greek word, "prooridzo". It means to set boundaries in advance, basically to determine what something is predetermined to become.

A very simple example of "predestined" would be, that you can't plant an orange seed and expect it to produce an apple. It's predestined to become an orange.

In Peter's 1st letter to the church, he declares that we were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from our futile way of life inherited from our forefathers.

But we have been born again not of seed which is perishable, but imperishable, that is through the living and abiding word of God.

John 1.1 states that in the beginning was the Word and the was with God, and the Word actually was God. In HIM was life and the life was the Light of men.

What God wanted to say to the world, He sent Jesus to demonstrate it to the entire world. He became "the word made flesh and dwelt among us, His Living Word.

John 1.12 it states that, to as many as did receive *and* welcome Him, He gave the authority (power, privilege, right) to become the children of God, that is, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name—Who owe their birth neither to bloods nor to the will of the flesh [that of physical impulse] nor to the will of man [that of a natural father], but to God. [They are born of God!]

We are actually born into God's family by His "imperishable seed". There is only one person in the universe who's "seed is imperishable". That would be God. So, the very thing that makes God supernatural is the same thing that made us His children.

Let's look at a couple more scriptures where this word "predestined" is used.

Ephesians 1.5 says, in love He predestined us for adoption as His sons through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His will.....

Again, if we receive the imperishable seed of God's word, which is Christ, God has predetermined us to become His children, His heirs, and joint heirs with Christ.

Here's another one. It's Romans 8.29.

For those God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers. And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified.

God did not just forgive our sins and say, now go live your life anyway you want. He predestined us to be like Christ.

Christ is the first fruit of God's redemptive plan. We are the rest of the crop which was planted with the same "imperishable seed."

Ephesians 1.11

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will....

The scriptures say that we've been predestined to the adoption as His children. This also predestines us to the inheritance of God's children.

Jesus said, everything that the Father has is mine, and I've sent My Holy Spirit to give it to you. That's John 16.14

I'd say, that's quite an inheritance for adopted kids!

The inheritance that God has prepared for His children is truly beyond natural comprehension.

But, if God has predestined this from the very beginning, who can stop it and why doesn't everybody lay hold of it?

Well, Jesus often said that it wouldn't come without resistance.

In Matthew 23.37 Jesus lamented over Jerusalem.

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those sent to her, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were unwilling!

Jesus also told His disciples, if they persecuted Me they will persecute you.

If they call the head of the house Beelzebub (the prince of demons), how much more the rest of the household?

In Matthew 10.17 Jesus tells His disciples to, beware of men; for they will hand you over to their councils and flog you in their synagogues. on My account, you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles.

Matthew 24.9 confirms this.

They will deliver you over to be persecuted and killed, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.

They will put you out of the synagogues. In fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. They will do these things because they have not known the Father or Me. John 16.2

This begs the question, how are we supposed to react to these things?

Let me give you a real example of what the early believers did in response to this kind of opposition.

In Acts chapter 4, Peter and John had just healed the lame man at the beautiful gate, and were told by the religious leaders to never speak in Jesus's name again. Peter responded to them, we can't do anything but speak exactly what he has told us, and they returned to their brothers.

In verse 27 they all prayed,

Truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do **WHATEVER YOUR HAND AND YOUR PURPOSE PREDESTINED TO OCCUR.**

“And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may **SPEAK YOUR WORD** with **ALL boldness**, while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.”

And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and *began* to speak the word of God with boldness.

I'd like to point out a few things about what happened.

They had a revelation that God predestined not only the healing of the lame man but also the persecution that came from it.

They drew the ire and persecution from the Pharisees because of their boldness. Especially Peter's defiant statement that we must do exactly what God has told us.

They asked God to let them speak HIS WORD with ALL BOLDNESS and that He would send His hand to heal and signs and wonders would happen TO CONFIRM HIS WORD.

I think it's interesting to note that they drew persecution because of their boldness. Their response to God about the situation was, give us ALL boldness.

I believe that for all intents and purposes they were saying,
God make an even bigger demonstration of yourself than the one you just made and let us participate in it.

So, what does this mean for us today?

Jesus made it very clear in Matthew 24.14 that God has predestined that this gospel of the kingdom, that He preached while He was on this Earth, would be preached to every nation on this planet and then the end shall come.

It's also quite clear through the entire New Testament, that God has predestined that His children would be the ones who sow this gospel of the kingdom to the entire Earth.

The question is, will we surrender our natural lives, inherited from Adam and Eve, to His Holy Spirit and allow Him to renew our minds and transform us.

God's predestination of His plan of redemption and the transformation of His children to be the ambassadors of His Kingdom are both supernatural. He's the only one who can do it.

We were created to participate in it with Him. That's why He left us here on the planet.
Let's allow the Holy Spirit to renew our minds and transform us to be what He predestined us to be.

God bless you.

Jim Fuller

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