

## PREDESTINATION

Romans 8:29-30

Introduction: Is predestination a Bible doctrine? Yes.

1. What is the definition of predestination?  
Predestination is the decree of God by which He has from eternity, unchangeably appointed and determined whatever comes to pass. The eternal counsel and purpose of Almighty Jehovah will be accomplished (Isaiah 46:9-11).
2. Dr. B. H. Carroll, founder of Southwestern Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, speaking on predestination as seen in Romans 8:29-30 says: "Every one that God chose in Christ is drawn by the Spirit of Christ. Every one predestined is called by the Spirit in time, and justified in time, and will be glorified when the Lord comes."([wwwFOUNDERS.org/library](http://wwwFOUNDERS.org/library))

Once again I ask the question: is predestination a Bible doctrine? The answer is still yes, and it will continue to be yes. All history is ever before the God of the universe. He is omniscient!

### I. BIBLE ILLUSTRATIONS OF PREDESTINATION

- A. Peter preached predestination on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:23-24).
  1. Judas betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.
  2. The soldiers arrested Jesus and turned Him over to the High Priest.
  3. The Priest turned Him over to Pontus Pilate.
  4. Pilate turned Him over to the soldiers for crucifixion.
  5. Jesus died on the cross, and His disciples put Him in the tomb.
  6. The government set a seal on the tomb and guards about it.
  7. But it was already decreed, one thousand years before His death, burial and resurrection, that the Savior would arise and not suffer corruption: "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy one to see corruption" (Psalm 16:10). That is predestination; that is the purpose of God being fulfilled.
- B. In the days of the Apostles, people were being put to death for their faith. The Christians were being oppressed by the Roman government; they were tortured, fed to the lions, and beheaded.

Yet, out of this context, Paul wrote by inspiration the words of Romans 8:28. Do we really believe those words? If so, we believe in God's immutable sovereign purpose as seen in predestination.

- C. The prophet Habakkuk was sent to announce the coming destruction of the Holy City of Jerusalem by the Chaldeans (Habakkuk 1:5-11; 2:3). The destruction did come with much rape, cruelty, and bloodshed. What is God's word for his prophet during this trying time? "The just shall live by faith" (Hab. 2:4).
- D. In Genesis 18:9-14, the Bible tells us of a heavenly visit to the tents of Abraham and Sarah assuring them that a child would be born to them. At this announcement, Sarah laughed at what was said. But years and years before, God had decreed that a son would be born to Abraham, one out of his own loins (Gen. 15:2-4). This was God's purpose and plan, and thus it was done according to predestination. The purposes of our God are never subverted by anything. Time cannot frustrate the eternal purposes of Jehovah.
- E. Joseph of old was hated by his brothers, sold into slavery, lied upon by Potiphar's wife, thrown into prison, forgotten there, set free in God's timing and was used of God to save Israel from starvation (Gen 50:20). When Joseph neared the time of death, he said to his brethren: "God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he swore to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence" (Gen. 50:24-26).
  - 1. For over three hundred and ninety years, the bones of Joseph stayed in Egypt, but the day of deliverance finally came and his bones were carried out of Egypt and buried in Shechem (Joshua 24:32).
  - 2. Joseph believed the Word of God and trusted in the plan and purpose of God for Israel as given to Abraham (Gen. 15:13-14).
- F. Romans 11:25-27 tells us that Israel shall be saved by Christ. Israel is blind now, yet God has predestined that the Jews be saved. God's purpose will not fail in Israel; they will be saved by grace (Zechariah 12:10).

- G. Ruth the Moabites found grace in the fields of Boaz. The Bible says it was her “hap” to fall upon his field. It was not happenstance, it was predestination that Ruth would be in the blood line of Jesus Christ.

## II. GOD’S PREDETERMINED PURPOSE FOR THE ELECT

- A. In Ephesians One, we read that salvation is all of God; it is according to His plan and His purpose.

- 1. Ephesians 1:5,11 tells us that predestination is real and true.
- 2. Salvation is, “to the praise of his glory”(6): not yours, not mine His.
- 3. We have redemption “according to the riches of his grace” (7).
- 4. That we see and understand what we do about salvation is all of grace. It is not because we are smart but because He is gracious to us. God has revealed to His people the “mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself”(9). “Mystery” is the Greek word *musterion* meaning “hidden or secret.” God purposed to reveal salvation to you. Because of this, we know that salvation is of the Lord and according to His purpose (11-12).
- 5. We are to be to the praise of His glory.

- B. We do not have time to expound on Romans 8:29-30, but there is one thing that is very evident here and that is predestination comes before calling and calling before justification.

- 1. Let us now look at Acts 13:48 in the light of Romans 8:29-30.
  - a. First, we see that predestination comes before calling as is pointed out in the Romans 8 passage.
  - b. According to Acts 13:48 “as many as were ordained [appointed, determined] to eternal life believed.”
- 2. John Broadus [Broadman Press and Hymnal named for he and Basil Manley] said of Acts 13:48: “Let the Scripture mean what it wants to mean, and you let the passage stand-ordination to precede eternal life. Ordination to eternal life takes place in eternity.” (11 “Biblical and Historical Faith of Baptists on God’s Sovereignty”)

Conclusion: Not one of God's decrees will fail. Every purpose will be accomplished.

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Aug 22, 2010