

THOUGHTS ABOUT PREDESTINATION

Ephesians 1:4-5, 11; 3:11

Introduction: The word "pre" before another word usually indicates "before" or in advance, in front of, or earlier. When dealing with the Biblical thought of "predestination" there is a tendency to shy away, to avoid, to go to something else, however it is there.

We are made free, free to choose, yet not everything. Birth, the color of one's eyes, skin color, etc.. Life seems to be involved in some sort of plan, purpose.

We don't understand it but can see it, God rules, God is sovereign, God has a plan, God has a purpose. An architect has blue prints, artists have mental pictures, we can understand that so maybe if we see God as having such plans as "blueprints" and mental pictures of creation and that He is working out His plan, then perhaps the word "predestination" won't be so strange and scary after all. (*John 1:1*)

What we see in our life time is God at work following His plan and we see our part in it.

I. PREDESTINATION IS FOUND THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE

1. *Galatians 4:4* - "...fullness of time..." Reveals that God directed and planned all history toward that exact moment Jesus was born.
 - God had the plan before Jesus was born and had been working toward the moment of birth.
 - God has worked all throughout history to bring about that wonderful event exactly as He wanted it: one world language (Greek), one world empire (Rome), world universal peace and God's Law being followed, taught and preached.
 - *Revelation 13:8* - God's purpose is mentioned here as a "Lamb."
 - *1 Peter 1:18-20* - The sacrifice of God's Son (as a Lamb) was in God's mind and plans before the first star ever appeared.
2. God's plan cannot be altered nor His mind changed means things are already in mind, plans are already set in motion, thus "predestination" for human history.
 - Ages and time are nothing to God.
 - Remember the covenant God had with Abraham, and the promise of a son? How long was it before the promised son was born? God does not change nor hindered in His purpose.
 - Pharaoh ordered the death of all male children under a certain age but Moses' mother hid him and of all things put him in a little basket/boat, the result was that baby Moses was taken in by the king's very own family and he was raised in royalty. God's plans work and He is never taken by any surprise.

II. DEATH DOES NOT CHANGE GOD'S PLANS

1. *Hebrews 2:14* - With the power of death, Satan tried to prevent Jesus from ever being born and he worked through history from Abel through Pharaoh to prevent it from happening.
 - Athaliah (Jezebell and Ahab's daughter), sought to slay all the male children in David's family as the "promised one" was to come through the lineage of David, but little Joash was hidden and lived to be king. God's plan foresaw all this and the lineage grew on.
 - The birth of Jesus Christ, the death of all male children by Herod, baby Jesus taken to Egypt by His parents, escaping death.

- Finally Jesus was crucified and Satan and every demon in hell rejoiced. Christ was slain.
 - BUT, a thousand years before this happened, God had spoken through David about a coming resurrection.
2. There is no changing, no deviation, no destruction of God's will or His plan.
 - Christian! This should be so comforting to know that our Heavenly Father will always take care of us and nothing can take us away from Him.
 - Remember Joseph, how he started and how he ended up - all in God's plan.
 - How about Judas who betrayed Jesus, sold for 30 pieces of silver - all foretold by prophets.
 - God says that Jesus Christ is savior of HIS world and that every knee will bow.
 - This is PRE-DESTINATION, PRE-ELECTION it's been planned already.

III. GOD'S ELECTIVE WILL IN OUR LIFETIME

1. The free world plunged into darkness of war and there was despair.
 - A dictator rose in Italy, an Emperor in Japan called a god, Nazi power in Germany, but the dictator in Italy was slaughtered like a pig, Hitler killed himself, the Japanese emperor admitted that he was no god.
 - The moving hand of God moved in history, in our lifetime, we have seen God's hand.
 - The threat of communism, the fear and despair that grips human hearts, surely God' people will be covered in all this uncertainty and perhaps calamity.
 - It would be so EXCEPT for God's purpose, plan, election and predestination for the God's Word says: *"...Be of good cheer, it is my Father's will that you should inherit the Kingdom.."*
 - It is God's purpose that we, His Children, Christians, inherit the earth and THAT IS PREDESTINATION!

CONCLUSION:

1. In back of our lives, in back of human history, in back of the whole universe is the sovereign purpose and will of God who guides all toward consumation of US becoming joint-heirs with our Lord Jesus Christ.
2. WE CHRISTIANS, CANNOT LOSE! BRING ON PREDESTINATION!!!!