

PREDESTINATION - PREDESTINATE / PREDESTINATED

There are only four of any form of the word in the Bible, and each use is a translation of the Greek word *pro-or-id'-zo* (Strong's # 4309) meaning *to limit in advance, i.e. (fig) predetermine, determine before, ordain, predestinate*.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Note, "To be conformed" indicates that the predestination is not a state one is already in, but a state to be achieved by a certain "confirmation" which is the free-will acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

Rom 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Note, "Them He also called" indicates that the predestination must result from a "calling" to which a person must respond properly; that is by believing in Christ.

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

Note, "Unto the adoption" maintains that a person is not the child until the adoption takes place. That adoption comes about only after one is saved.

Eph 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

Note, "We have obtained an inheritance" indicates that one is not predestined to inherit the kingdom of Heaven, but must accept for truth a death of someone; that is here speaking of the death of Jesus Christ.

Some may take the preceding verses as the basis for thinking that certain people are destined to go to Heaven and no others can possibly share that destiny. It is believing that some are born to go to hell and can do nothing to change their eternal destiny. Similarly, they think some are born to go to Heaven because they are so predestined.

Such thinking does not take into account the exact meaning of the verses because such phrases as, "To be conformed", "Them He also called", "Unto the adoption" and "We have obtained an inheritance" are ignored.

THE ETERNAL STATE OF THE SOUL OF MAN IS NOT PREDESTINED, BUT CONDITIONAL.

That is to say that the soul of man's eternal state depends on certain condition or conditions made with limitations and not dependent upon the absolute demand of God's predetermined imposition.

To say that the eternal place of the soul of man is conditional is to state that there are two ways for man to choose from. Those ways are predetermined by Almighty God, and man is given the choice. The way which is chosen results in the condition of the soul in eternity. This is the conditionality of it. A person may choose God's way or Satan's way. The soul of man, therefore, is dependent upon individual choice. The ways are predestined, the person is not.

Matt 7:13-14 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

LAWS ARE PREDESTINED > Matt 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

NATURAL (laws of nature) Eccl 11:3 If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be. **Eccl 1:5-7** The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose. 6 The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits. 7 All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.

PHYSICAL Rom 7:5 For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. **Rom 7:24** O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? **Matt 4:23-24** And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. 24 And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them. **Matt 10:1** And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

SPIRITUAL (laws of God) Ezek 18:4 Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die. **Ezek 18:20-21** The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him. 21 But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

CONSEQUENCES ARE PREDESTINED

The law of gravity, for example, demands that, in consequence of falling from a high place, a person will suffer bodily harm. Or, concerning the physical, when the human heart fails to beat death will be the consequence

Each law demands a result, an effect on those subject to that law and a consequence dependant upon how the subjects to the law regards it.

Concerning His laws, God has predetermined that they demand either a reward of a punishment. This predestination of consequences can never be abolished or altered.

Deut 28:1-2 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: 2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

Deut 27:26 Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them. And all the people shall say, Amen.

Deut 28:15 But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

Gal 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

MAN'S FREE WILL IS PREDESTINED

God has predetermined that each person be free to choose. If God did not grant that freedom, people would be no more than mindless robots with no individuality of thought, no capacity for decision and no ability to exercise reason. Were God not to give the freedom of will, He would have no cause to invite people to be reasonable.

Isa 1:18-19 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. 19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

Note the words, "Let us reason together" verify that people have the free will to be reasonable or unreasonable and to choose good or evil.

Note also the words, "If ye be willing" show that God has predetermined free will.

A most popular verse that demonstrates man's freedom of choice is **Josh 24:15** And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Conclude that laws, consequences and free will are related. All laws have consequences. The predestined free will of people determine the consequences.

TIME IS PREDESTINED

Having determined when time should begin, God has predetermined when time in general will end and when certain segments of time, be they life or events, will end.

Rev 10:5-6 And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, 6 And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:

As the existence of time is predestined by Almighty God, time that is applicable to human lives is predetermined, though the souls of people are not.

Acts 17:24-26 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; 25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; 26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

Job speaks of man's time being predestined by the determination of God.

Job 14:5 Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass;

PLACES AND THINGS ARE PREDESTINED TO BE WHERE THEY ARE AND FOR THEIR PURPOSE GOD INTENDED

Deut 1:32-33 Yet in this thing ye did not believe the LORD your God, 33 Who went in the way before you, to search you out a place to pitch your tents in, in fire by night, to shew you by what way ye should go, and in a cloud by day.

Ps 16:5-6 The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot. 6 The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.

Ezek 34:25-27 And I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods. 26 And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing. 27 And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bands of their yoke, and delivered them out of the hand of those that served themselves of them.

God's people were thirsty. There was a rock predestined to be exactly where it was located in the way which God's people would be led to go. There was water, predestined and predetermined, in that rock. The people were not predestined to drink from that rock. They did not have to follow God's pathway, nor were they forced to follow God's cloud by day or His pillar of fire by night.

Ex 17:3-6 And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst? 4 And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me. 5 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go. 6 Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

Many places and things are predetermined for man's benefit; but the soul of man is not predestined to go either to heaven or to hell. To go God's way or to go Satan's way is dependant alone to the choice of each individual.

PLACES AND THINGS – MODERN ILLUSTRATION:

Some men were working on a big barge on the Niagara River not far upstream from the Niagara Falls. The barge broke loose from its mooring and went rushing with the strong, swift current towards the falls and sudden death. Suddenly the barge came to a sudden, crashing halt. Some great boulders, rooted deep in the bed of the river and

protruding above the surface of the river, caught the barge and lodged it fast and unmovable. The barge remains there to this day.

The men on the barge had to remain through the night before they could be rescued. It has been said that one of the men's hair turned white overnight from fear. He needed not to have been afraid. Nothing could move that barge for years to come.

If I had been on that barge and so saved from sure death, I know that I would say forever that God had predestined those boulders to be exactly where they were, and also He had predetermined the current of the river to carry that barge exactly where it went. This is speaking of places and things only. Concerning a person's eternal soul, reference must be made to the Rock of Ages, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the free-will choice of mankind.

THE SOUL OF A PERSON IS WRAPPED IN A BRIEF LIFE SURROUNDED BY CONTIGUOUS LAWS, CONSEQUENCES, TIME, PLACES AND THINGS.

THE DESTINY OF THE SOUL IS DEPENDENT UPON HOW A PERSON USES HIS FREE WILL TO CHOSE GOS'S WAY OR THE DEVIL'S WAY.

Matt 7:13-14 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

GOD'S PREPARATION FOR THINGS PREDESTINATED

The path is already cleared. The lamp is already lit and the light is already shining. **Ps 119:105** Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Protection is already active. The hedges are already planted and grown. **Job 1:10**

Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

The Captain is already present. Josh 5:13-14 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? 14 And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?

The wings are already spread. Matt 23:37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

The mansions are already prepared. John 14:2-3 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

The walls are set, the gates hung, and the glorious lights are shining. **Rev 21:10-12** And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; 12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels,...