

In Love He Predestined Us

Predestination

This is one of the most contentious doctrines in the Bible.

The problem centers on the issue of the ‘free will’ of His creatures.

We have studied the Love of God: because it is **in love** that He predestined us. Then we studied the Sovereignty of God, to do what pleases Him. Then we looked at all the essence of God for He cannot contradict any of His attributes as Deity. Then we looked at Divine Decrees. Now we come to Predestination. One of the great difficulties in the study of Predestination and doctrines like ‘Election’ and the source of sin and the source of evil is a failure of understanding where ‘free will’ fits into the whole of the study of the Bible.

For all eternity-past there existed but one will in all the universe and that was the will of God. As D. Barnhouse words it: ‘that fact constitutes the difference between eternity and time.’ We must understand that for all eternity past there existed but one will. But in time, God decreed more than one will. And this begins the Angelic Conflict. This conflict flows over to the history of mankind, who also was decreed to have free will by God, the designer of all creation.

What happens when there was but one will, but now more than one? To begin to grasp the significance ask anyone who is married? Yesterday they were single, one will. Now there are two wills colliding! A great deal of adjusting to marriage is adjusting to two wills in the same house,

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in the same room! And if that does not do it for you, then ask the parent of a 16-year-old about more than one will!!

We learn a great deal about ourselves and others when we encounter more than one will. And so it is with God, we learn one of the most important lessons about God with His creation of more than just His own will.

We learn of His marvelous grace. We learn of His love, and yes, we learn of His wrath!

Eternity Past	Creation of Angels	Creation of Mankind	Eternity Future
One Will	More Than One Will	More Than One Will	One Will

Those who deny the creation of free will are left with many theological problems. No free will means that God is the creator of sin; God is the creator of evil. Oh, they try to smooth talk their way around this and say that even though God is the creator of all things, He did not create sin or evil. Mankind is responsible for the existence of sin and evil. Then, they go back to the fact that God predestined all things: He predestined the Morning Star to sin; He predestined mankind to sin; that is He predestined Adam and Eve to sin in the garden and He predestines you to sin when you sin, but it is your fault! Neither logically nor theologically can they get away with this. Just because they say so, does not make it so. If God predestined everything, then God predestined sin and evil. Therefore, God is the creator of sin and evil. But they protest, because they know that God is perfect Righteous and absolute Justice. And

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therefore, sin and evil cannot come from a perfect being, a perfect God. They say something to the effect that it is just beyond our understanding. How there is no free will and yet sin is not the fault of the Creator.

People, we simply cannot deny that God created creatures and gave them free will. This is the great lesson of history. This is the great lesson we are to learn from the ‘divine demonstration of free will.’

Yes, God knew that if He created a being with free will that, that being would eventually use that free will to rebel against Him. He knew this...

Yet, He created creatures and gave them free will, to demonstrate His love, His grace, His Righteousness and His wrath. Don't be afraid to acknowledge that God created free will. He is big enough to handle that. And if you acknowledge that God created super beings—angels—and gave them free will, and then created lower beings—mankind—and gave them free will you will begin to have a simple understanding of why sin, why evil. From where did sin and evil come? Why wars, why disasters, why all the things that bother you in history and in your own lives?

If you deny that God created free will not only do you make Him responsible for sin and evil but you cut yourself short of grasping your place in the Angelic Conflict. You fail to understand the all importance of ‘friendship’ with Jesus Christ and with God. Oh, yes, you have a choice each day of your life, if you want a friendship with your savior, Jesus the Christ.

**John 15:12 “This is My commandment, that
you love one another, just as I have loved you.**

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John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:14 You are My friends if you do what I command you

John 15:15 No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.

John 15:16 You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

John 15:17 This I command you, that you love one another.

You have a choice. Now, what exactly is your choice to be a friend with and of Jesus Christ? Answer: to love one another just as He loves you. This demands that you know how He loved. This is where another great battle in the Angelic conflict confronts us. The great evil of the 'emergence' church is telling everyone to 'follow' Jesus. People, do not think for one moment that you can love one another as Jesus loves from your flesh nature. You cannot. Your flesh nature cannot love as Jesus

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Christ loves. But this is what they (the emergence church) would have you believe and try to do. We are not to look at His love and then try to duplicate that love in your life. That is not what Jesus is saying here. This is the evil of the “What Would Jesus Do” (WWJD) movement. People, Christians in the flesh trying to copy Jesus Christ. We first of all must **know** how He loved.

First: Jesus Christ loved in the power of the Holy Spirit. So you have to know how to be empowered by the Holy Spirit, by grace through faith.

Secondly: Jesus Christ loved sacrificially to Himself for the Spiritual benefit of one another.

And let me assure you, your flesh nature does not desire to love sacrificially self for the benefit of another. Most people—Christians included, have the idea that ‘I love you, therefore you do for me.’ ‘I love you therefore you sacrifice for me.’ Their love is a controlling love. The love that Jesus is speaking of is a superhuman love, a supernatural love, a love that is poured into you by the Holy Spirit, when you are walking with Him in faith. This love is therefore called ‘Spiritual love.’ That is a love from the Holy Spirit through a New Spiritual Creation (believer in Jesus Christ as Savior) and has spiritual impact in Satan’s world.

And please, be sure you note the object of your love in this commandment to be a friend of Jesus.

One Another. In the New Testament Greek there are two different words translated *one another*. One means another of a different kind. In this study, that would be an unbeliever. The other word means another of the same kind, that is a believer. So, this commandment of friendship is to

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love other believers. And before you protest, *well, are we not to love the unbelievers?* Of course we are, but, loving an unbeliever is not difficult. We expect nothing from them. But... to love a believer, who has offended you, hurt you or hurt someone you love, to love everyone in the local church, well, this is much more difficult. In fact, sometimes if we are honest, we would say, *I don't even desire to love that person.* I like the way Lewis Sperry Chafer words this: "Father, I do not desire to love this person, give me the desire to desire to love this person." And God's answer is in the power of the filling of the Holy Spirit. The 'mark' of a person who is truly a friend of Jesus Christ, is not going to church, is not in how much doctrine you know, not in how you worship Him or praise Him or how much you give to the church, not even how moral you are. The mark of a true friend of Jesus is one who loves one another—other believers—husband, wife, children, parents, family members who are believers, at work, and of course and often most difficult, at church.

For your information, there is a great deceptive movement going on today in a multitude of churches. It comes under the banner of the 'emerging church.' It prides itself on ushering in a 'new reformation.' It is most deceitful in how it speaks of Jesus. Their Jesus is not the Jesus of the Bible. They want to bring about the world described as the world of the millennial reign of Jesus Christ, only they are going to bring it about without the Return of Jesus Christ. They detest 'end time' studies even though these prophecies make up some 25% of the Bible. Please be on your guard for 'contemplative spirituality,' which is divorced of the work of the Holy Spirit. They appeal to those who want everyone to be joined together with such teaching as 'keep your own religion, just add Jesus to the equation.' Another modus operandi is 'Eucharistic Evangelization.' I

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strongly recommend to arm yourself with the book ‘Faith Undone’ by Roger Oakland.

Back to what God is doing with the creation of free will to creatures. As you look and study history you will note the primary difference between eternity past and time is the existence of more than one will. Again, where did that free will come from? It came from God. In His Divine Decree and in His creation of the super creatures—angels—God gave them free will. We must grasp what happened when God introduced a second will.

Let us look briefly at what actually did happen when there were two wills in the universe.

We start out with the super creatures we know as angels. We are not told how many God created but there were an abundance of them on earth. But there was one of these super beings so superior to the others.

First, I want you to see the fairness of God in His creation of this super creature. Let’s read about his creation.

Ezekiel 28:11 Again the word of the Lord came to me saying,

Ezekiel 28:12 “Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God,

This is not the same king referred to in verse 1. How do we know this? Because all that is now said of him describes no human being on earth.

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Look now at how God created this super creature: Morning Star.

As we read through, remember this is a lamentation—a hurt, a sadness for this creature. In fact, the Hebrew word refers to *a funeral lamentation or dirge*. People, we learn about God from this word. I am so sorry for Calvinists who believe that God created this creature to sin, so that God could lament! That is absurd. This would make God a hypocrite. It is amazing how in trying to defend the Sovereignty of God, they commit blasphemy against Him.

Ezekiel 28:12 “You had the seal/stamp of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

Be careful when you tell some lady she is perfect in beauty. You may be describing Lucifer. Now notice something cannot refer to the current king of Tyre.

Ezekiel 28:13 “You were in Eden, the garden of God;...

Uh oh, wait, the king of Trye was never in the garden of Eden. So something happens in verse 11. There is a change in who is really being addressed. Now we have why he was perfect in beauty

Ezekiel 28:13 ...Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald;

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**And the gold, the workmanship of your
settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day
that you were created They were prepared.**

Scripture is here speaking to the Morning Star (Satan). The most magnificent of the creativeness of God of all creatures was in the garden of Eden.

**Ezekiel 28:14 “You were the anointed cherub
who covers, (guards!) And I (God) placed you
*there.***

God created the Morning Star and God placed him in the garden. Now, where did this creature come from? When was he created? Genesis 1:2 and following does not tell us when he was created. But in Genesis 1:1 we have a clue. This magnificent angel, we know as Lucifer, was created in the pre-historic world that is the pre-history of mankind, which begins in Genesis 1:2. When I use the term ‘pre-historic’ I am referring to that period of time from original creation of this world and all the billion of galaxies and creation of all the angels, with free will. And all that occurred in Genesis 1:1. Genesis 1:2 records the beginning of the Restoration of the earth for mankind.

So where did this Lucifer, this creation spoken of in Ezekiel chapter 28 come from? He, along with all the other angels, were created in Genesis 1:1 and with them came the existence of two Wills by the creation of God, Himself. Now back to Ezekiel 28:14

Ezekiel 28:14 You were the anointed cherub who covers

Note that word *anointed*. This is the only occurrence of this Hebrew word in the Old Testament, *mimsah*; which seems to be derived from the verb *masah* which means to anoint. This would mean that he is appointed or anointed a holy office or responsibility.

Cherub. The highest rank of angels, with 4 wings. We noted them in Ezekiel chapter 1 and chapter 10. They are described as the guardians of the Garden of Eden and guardians of the Glory of God around His throne and arching above the Mercy Seat.

who covers. Again we have some difficulty. While it does mean to cover, it means to cover so as to hide or shield something, therefore to guard something. The Mercy Seat on the ark of the covenant was covered or guarded by the wings of cherubim.

Ezekiel 28:14 You were the anointed cherub who guards And I placed you there

You were on the holy mountain of God;

Now, where is the holy mountain of God? In Hermeneutics we get a guide in the study of the Bible. Let the Bible interpret itself. So, look at Daniel chapter 9 where we have Daniel's prayer for his People and God's people.

Daniel 9:16 O Lord, in accordance with all Your righteous acts, let now Your anger and Your wrath turn away from Your city

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Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; for because of our sins and the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people *have become* a reproach to all those around us.

Look down at Daniel 9:20

Daniel 9:20 Now while I was speaking and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God in behalf of the holy mountain of my God,

Daniel is talking about Jerusalem as the holy mountain of God.

So Daniel tells us where the Holy Mountain of God is: where modern day Jerusalem is located. Remember that Daniel and Ezekiel are contemporaries in Babylonian captivity.

Think about all that is being said of this ‘Lucifer’ at his creation according to Ezekiel.

**seal of perfection;
full of wisdom
perfect in beauty
in Eden, the garden of God
his beauty is then described in precious stones
he was the anointed cherub
he was guard
he was on the holy mountain of God – Jerusalem**

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We are in the midst of describing Lucifer in the grandeur of his creation by God.

Ezekiel 28:14 ...You walked in the midst of the stones of fire.

First—*you walked*—Hebrew means to walk back and forth, up and down. The idea behind this description is vast freedom that he enjoyed. Now what about the stones of fire? Almost everyone who studies this passage agrees this is a tough one, as to what is being talked about here. Some even think it refers to planets in the galaxies. Fortunately, neither our salvation nor our spirituality, nor our glorifying God depends on this phrase! But let's see if the context gives us some clues as to what is being described here.

He was in the garden of Eden, the garden of God

He was the covering or guard of the glory of God

he was on the holy mountain of God (and then)

You walked in the midst of the stones of fire

So most assuredly this has something to do with God.

If we look on top of Mt. Sinai where God met with Moses: fire.

And then the burning bush: a non-consuming fire before Moses.

Then we have the fine stones as the adorning of Lucifer.

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And here stones of fire...referring to the presence of YHWH to which this Lucifer walked freely in fellowship with.

Ezekiel 28:15 “You were blameless in your ways...

Let me start of by showing you how important it is to whom you listen to in the teaching of the Word of God. There are many who take the whole of Ezekiel chapter 28 as referring to the King of Tyre. Therefore, to them, this phrase shows that there are multitudes who are not born under condemnation and in need of Salvation, but are in a blameless state before God!!! which of course is in great contradiction to many passages which teach that we are all born under sin.

So, this verse 15 refers to before the Angelic-Conflict and before the creation and fall of Adam. The Angelic-Conflict began after the original creation of galaxies, the earth, and angels. We are seeing in Ezekiel chapter 28 how the foremost of the angels looked like when he was created—superior to all other angels. There was and is no equality among angels, just as there is no equality among humans.

Here we begin to learn about the beginning of the Angelic Conflict.

The existence of prehistoric rational creatures: Scripture reveals there are two categories of rational creatures.

First: The prehistorical category called angels as in

2 Peter 2:11 whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.

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Secondly: The historical category called homo-sapiens, mankind:

Hebrews 2:6 But one has testified somewhere, saying, “WHAT IS MAN, THAT YOU REMEMBER HIM? OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HIM?

Hebrews 2:7 “YOU HAVE MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND HAVE APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS;

The creation of man is recorded in Genesis 1:2 and following.

But angels are rational, superior and prehistoric creatures, who have existed in the universe before man for an unknown period of time.

We are looking at the fall of Lucifer, the supreme of angelic creatures. Let's note a few things about the fall.

1. Angelic volition and human volition are tested in the same manner.
2. The conditions of prehistoric times have been reproduced in the history of mankind. The conditions of the fall of mankind are exactly like that of angelic. Lucifer was the first angel to fall and Eve was the first human to fall. Eve led Adam to sin and Lucifer led 1/3 of the angels to sin.
3. God created both angels and humans in perfection and innocence, blameless before Him.

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So, we begin an analysis between the angels and mankind with Adam in the garden

4. The Hebrew word for blameless is associated with righteousness, truth, being upright before God, being without sin. So again, we know this is not speaking of a man, the King of Tyre, but to the super creature Lucifer.
5. Now what is interesting here is what we learn about God and creation: coming up **from the day you were created**. The Hebrew word *bara*. When God created angels, He created them blameless, without sin. When God created man, He created him blameless, without sin. But in His creation of both angels and man, God created them with free will, volition. But He started them out in perfect harmony with Him. This is the foundation of the great test. And if you deny free will you will miss what God is doing in the creation of angels and mankind with free will. This is the way God created them—so they could have fellowship with God. He created the super creatures, angels first for fellowship. But, as we know, a third of them turned from God while 2/3 turned to God – to be with God forever! At some point in the Angelic-Conflict God caused those who had turned to Him to be in that state forever, not able to sin or fail, just like with us in eternity.

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6. As we are going to see, Lucifer, used his free will to rebel against God in the garden of God resulting in the Angelic-Conflict and the fall of angels. Adam and Eve used their free will to rebel against God, their creator which led to the parallel fall of mankind. Mankind followed the exact same pattern as we find in Lucifer's rebellion against God their creator.

The study of free will is so vital to grasping so many doctrines in the Word of God, like grace. We will continue this study next Sunday morning.