

SS-Doctrine 3 Election/Predestination

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Just as God chose Abraham out of all the people of the world... and then He chose Isaac over Ismail... and then He chose Jacob over Esau... and then, He chose the descendants of Israel... the nation of Israel

Just as God chose Israel... through no merit of their own... He also chose certain gentiles throughout history from every tribe, nation and language... to comprise His elect... His chosen... the elect people of God... those whom He would choose, call, save, justify and glorify through all eternity.

And... compared with the total number of humans... this is a small number... His elect... Wide is the way that leads to destruction... many go therein... narrow to life eternal... few find it...

Our election is the security in our relationship and position in Christ... our Predestination is our security in God's finished plan for our completion and destination...

Our election is His already finished work... our predestination is what will be His completed work.

Our salvation is His finished work... our sanctification... our being conformed into the image of Jesus Christ... is the work that He is even now completing in us and through us.

Our salvation is secure to the end because it was planned from the beginning.

Our salvation was predestined in the very beginning to be initiated... and then completed by God Himself... it is all His work.

Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith.

The Doctrine of election is very disturbing to many... as if calls into question God's goodness, graciousness, fairness...

Great division happens around the facts of God's election of His saints... not because the doctrine itself is divisive... it is one of the most clearly taught areas of God's Word. The division comes from those who refuse to believe what God has said.

Let's review a little...

2 Tim 3:16 ... **All Scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for **doctrine**, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Prov 30:5 **Every word of God is pure**: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

Mark 13:31 Heaven and earth shall pass away: **but my words shall not pass away**.

2 Pet 3:15... as also our beloved brother Paul, **according to the wisdom given to him**, has written to you,¹⁶ as also in **all his epistles**, speaking in them of these things, in which **some things are hard to understand**, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction...

God said, in **Isaiah 55**... "For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are your* ways My ways," says the LORD.⁹ "For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Rom 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable *are* His judgments and His ways past finding out!

³⁴ “For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?” ³⁵ “Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?” ³⁶ For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.

Psalm 119:105 Your word *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

What does God mean in that verse... a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

A lamp to my feet tells me where I am, and also how to keep from tripping or falling on unseen roots or rocks.

A light unto my path tells me where I am going... where I am destined to be... but also, where I came from... how I came to be here.

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are **the called according to His purpose.** ²⁹ **For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be** conformed to the image of His Son... ³⁰ **Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called... whom He called, these He also justified... and whom He justified, these He also glorified.**

So... sometime in the past... He foreknew us... He knew us... not... He knew of us... He **knew** us... an intimate personal knowledge and relationship... the word used is the same as the sexual relationship in marriage...

So... first, He **knew** us... then He **predestined** us to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. He determined to **make certain** we became like Jesus Christ. That was our planned destiny... to be like Jesus Christ... and He was not going to allow anything or anyone to keep that from happening... Then He **called** us to Himself... and then He **justified** us... He made us righteous before Him... and then He **glorified** us... all these things are in the past tense... already accomplished facts... how could that be?

Eph 1:3-14 ... ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴ just as **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,** that we should be **holy and without blame before Him** in love, ⁵ **having predestined us to adoption as sons** by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which **He made us accepted in the Beloved.** ⁷ In Him **we have redemption** through His blood, the **forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace** ⁸ **which He made to abound toward us** in all wisdom and prudence, ⁹ having made known to us the **mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,** ¹⁰ that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. ¹¹ In Him also we **have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him** who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. ¹³ In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; and having believed... **you were sealed in Christ with the Holy Spirit ...** ¹⁴ **who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession,** to the praise of His glory... this was all done for the glory of God...

Eph 2:1-10 ... And **you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,** ... and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with **which He loved us,** ⁵ **even when we were dead in sin... made us alive together with Christ** (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and **raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,** ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ **For we are His workmanship,** created in Christ Jesus for good works, **which God prepared beforehand** that we should walk in them.

Here is what God is saying... before God created the world... before time began... God chose me... and He chose you... that is, if you are His child... if you have truly placed your faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior... and He predetermined our destiny... that He would make us alive at the time of His choosing... at the time of His choosing...

Let's look at time... what is time... seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years, centuries... millenia... time is what we humans, here on Earth, are temporarily bound by... our physical lives on Earth have been governed by time... minute by minute, year by year... But God is not bound by time... He is outside of time... He is eternal... the Bible says He has had no beginning and will have no ending... He calls Himself, 'I Am.' we don't understand that at all...

And... we also are completely unable to understand anything else which is outside of time... whether time has existed for 6000 years, or for 6 billion years... time is the framework God created... within which to fulfill His plan, His ultimate plan... **to glorify Himself.** And... He created the Universe, both physical and spiritual... as the stage upon which would fulfill His plans and purposes to glorify Himself.

Now angels are not the stars of the show... man is not the star of the show... only God is.

Angels and man are just instruments God has created to use in His eternal plan **to glorify Himself.**

He has created everything **for that purpose**... angels and Lucifer... his rebellion Adam and all humans... the fall... the Cross... the Rapture... the Tribulation, Armageddon, the Millennium and all of eternity future. He chose only one star for His entire plan... a superstar at the center of everything... the Lord Jesus Christ... He was not created... He is God Himself... the Eternal Son...

Time had a beginning and it will come to an end, but God never changes.

Here is reality in its simplest form... Before time, there was only God... and God planned within Himself... His ultimate plan... **to glorify Himself.** Now that is not selfish or self centered... because only God is holy and righteous and good... only God is worthy of glory, honor and praise. for Him to do... or to plan anything else... would be untrue to His own holiness, righteousness and goodness.

So... way back then... There is only God... and God plans... within Himself... **to glorify Himself.** He formulates this unbelievably intricately involved plan... and then He creates time and the universe... in which and upon which... to carry out His plan.

See it like this... imagine God... One God ... Father, Son and Holy Spirit... 3 persons and yet, One God... perfect unity, harmony and fellowship... can't understand that either...

God is sitting on His throne. Before Him... He speaks into existence this great, transparent bubble, in which He has created time... and the Universe... stretching from left to right... an unimaginably huge span of space within a finite span of time... God created this container for time and the universe with a definite beginning point and a definite planned exact ending point. Let's just say that He planned for it to be a period of 7000 years from Genesis 1. Remember He accomplished the creation of Gen 1 in 6 days with the 7th day as Sabbath rest... 7 days... Peter wrote that with the Lord... one day is the same as a thousand years and 1000 years as one day... From Gen 1 ... about 1500 years from Adam to the flood... and then about 1000 years to Moses... then about 1500 years to Jesus Christ... and about 2000 years till now... and then finally... 1000 years more of Jesus Christ's reign on Earth... 7... one-thousand year periods... like 7 days in creation. Then... the universe and time will be destroyed by God ... He will then create a new Heaven and a new Earth which will be eternal, no longer bound by time at all.

So, here is God in front of this large bubble of time, floating in the vastness of eternity... and in this bubble is all the created universe... with a definite moment of beginning... and a definite exact moment of ending... and remember... God means nothing to God... meaning... He is not contained in time or bound by time... He is completely outside of time... He is eternal... and that same eternal life of God is what He has created in us and placed us into... His Children.

Now... back to Eph 1:4... Just as He **chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself

This says, that over on the left of the bubble... before God even created the bubble... before He created time and the universe... He chose me... He chose us... it doesn't say that He looked forward and saw that we would decide to come to Him... it says... He chose us... long before we even existed.

Well, if He could choose us before time was even created... what else might He have done way back there and then...

John 17:20 ²⁰ "I do not pray for these alone, Jesus says... but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; **that they also may be one in Us**, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² And the **glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me**; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that **You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.**

²⁴ "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; **for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.** ²⁵ O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. ²⁶ And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare *it*, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

God the Father, loved His Son way over on the left side, before the container for time and eternity was even created... and He chose to love **us** with the very same love... who... us... those whom He chose... at the same time... before time... before creation...

So, God chose us, and loved us before He even created the world... what else... this is getting exciting...

Matt 25:33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

So... here He says, that for those whom He loved with the same love with which He loves His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ... and whom He chose as His own... before He even created them or the world... For them, for us... He also prepared a kingdom... prepared just for us... before He created the world!

Well how was He going to let us into His kingdom if we were to be born as sinners and have evil dark hearts?

Rev. 17:8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not **written in the book of life from the foundation of the world!**

What!?! I thought you said that God puts my name in the book of life when I get saved... when I 'accept Jesus'...

This says that He did that before He created us... before He even created the world.

What did Peter say to us...

2 Pet 1:18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

¹⁹ We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place

It doesn't matter what people have said or thought or believed... we have the more sure Word of God's Word... He wrote our names in the Lamb's Book of Life **before the creation of the world.**

God has an answer for those who would question His wisdom and power... Job questioned God... and God answered in Job 38...

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:

² "Who *is* this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

³ Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.

⁴ **"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?"**

Tell Me, if you have understanding. ⁵ **Who determined its measurements?** Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶ **To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone,** ⁷ When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

OK... let me get this straight... many thousands of years ago... who knows how long for sure... God chose me and He chose to love me with the same love He has for Jesus Christ, and prepared for me a kingdom... and He wrote my name in His Book of Life... way over on the left side of the bubble... before He even created the universe and time...

Well how in the world was He going to fix it so that He could fit an ugly hearted scoundrel like me into His Eternal Kingdom of Righteousness... How in the world... that's just it... it wasn't in the world... it was before the world.

1 Pet 1:18 ¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. ²⁰ He indeed was **foreordained before the foundation of the world,** but was manifest in these last times for you ²¹ who... through Him believe in God,

His plan... before He created the world... was that His Son would be sacrificed for my Sin... but it goes even deeper than that... He says that it was all an accomplished fact in God... even before He created the world...

Rev. 13:7 speaking of the soon to come Antichrist... during the soon to come Tribulation time... And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. ⁸ All who dwell on the earth will worship him, **whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**

See that... Jesus Christ... **slain from the foundation of the World.**

We can't truly understand this... no use trying... but, even though we can't understand fully... yet... we are required to believe it.

Heb 4:3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although **the works were finished from the foundation of the world.**

Are you beginning to see this... here is the story so many of us have believed.... and that so many teach today...

God made a perfect world and He was lonely... so He made man because He so wanted company and fellowship... man had so much to add to God's happiness after all... but man sinned... so God had to figure out a way to fix it... but every time He gets things going in the right direction... back on track... Satan fouls it up for Him and He has to go back to the drawing board for a reset...

So God is begging mankind to come to Him and let Him forgive them... but sadly, God has been unable to get the Gospel to most people so it has really been a wasted effort on His part... too bad He doesn't recognize it yet... but eventually... God will redeem all the Earth and everything will be as it should be... we hope...

However... What God's Word really says is quite different indeed... First... God planned a plan to Glorify Himself... He chose to create time the universe... time... as the temporary container for the Universe... the temporary staging place... upon which to accomplish His plan... He created angels and man... as instruments in His plan... but also as the audience before whom He would do everything... and in order to fully accomplish His plan of glorifying Himself... He chose a certain, relatively small group of people... taken from every tongue, tribe and nation... and He planned and accomplished their salvation... all on His own... even before He created anything.

All of these things are accomplished facts in the mind of God... in some way that we are not able to understand... but we are able to believe it... because His **more sure Word** tells us so... and He has placed in us the faith to believe it.

From the foundation of the world... before the foundation of the world... there's a reason why God used these very words... these exact words through so many different writers... because that is what He means and He is telling us His secret...

That is the Mystery of Salvation... the mystery hidden for long ages until revealed in Christ.

Remember back in Eph 1:9... having made known to us the **mystery** of His will, **according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself**, He purposed it in Himself.... He didn't ask advice from angels or from us... this is God's deal... beginning to end.

God kept these things secret for 1000's of years... first from angels and demons... and then from humans too.

Look at Job again... He says where were you when I **laid the foundation of the world**... when all the sons of God sang with joy together... the angels were there and they watched Him create... but they didn't know His plan of Salvation to glorify Himself... and to save us... whom He had not yet even created.

Matt 13:34 All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables... and without a parable He did not speak to them,³⁵ that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying:

"I will open My mouth in parables;
I will utter things kept secret **from the foundation of the world.**"

You see.... He was purposely tying all of this together for us... so that we could understand and believe these very important truths... these secrets of God... His glory... our election and predestination... our salvation... the eternity and security of our salvation... He said... I did these things before I created the world... and I kept these things secret, known only to Myself... until I began to make them known to my children... first through My Son, Jesus Christ... and then more fully through my servants, the writers of Scripture and especially through Paul, my Apostle to you... the gentiles and barbarians.
Secrets of the Universe... revealed to us... His children.