

**Out of His Great Love:
A Study on Predestination
Study Text: Romans 11**

I. What is Predestination?

A. The doctrine of predestination states that God, in his sovereignty, has marked out certain men for salvation.

B. Two schools of thought- *foreknowledge vs foreordination*

C. OT and NT Concepts

- a. OT- Yahweh is able to predict the future and foreordain events [Isaiah 41:21-24] [*before they ever happen where other "gods" are unable to do so*]
- b. OT- Israel predestined to be God's chosen people [Deuteronomy 4:37;7:6; 14:2]
- c. NT- Christ's atonement was predestined [Acts 2:23] [from the Greek word pro-orizo]
- d. NT- Salvation as a result was predestined [Ephesians 1:11]
- e. NT- Our final image was predestined [Romans 8:29]
- f. NT- Believers have been chosen from the beginning [Ephesians 1:4,5]

B. Single Predestination

- a. Predestination of God's elect to eternal glory without any reference to the non-elect.

C. Double Predestination

- a. Predestination of God's elect to eternal glory and concomitantly the non-elect to eternal destruction.

D. Major Proponents of Predestination

- a. Justin Martyr; Irenaeus (Early Church)- God predestines based on foreknowledge of choices
- b. Origen- Hardening based on inherent wickedness within a person
- c. Augustine- Man cannot choose because of depravity
- d. John Calvin (Reformation era)- "All are not created on equal terms..."; monergism
 - i. TULIP- Total Depravity; Unconditional Election; Limited Atonement; Irresistible Grace; Perseverance of the Saints

E. Scriptures used to support this doctrine

Acts 13:48; John 15: 16,17; Romans 9:6-13; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; 1 Peter 1:2; 2:9

II. Predestination versus Election

- A. Election: “Chosen”; the act whereby God chose men for Himself (Shank, R.)
- B. Predestination: “To decide beforehand”; God’s act of determining the destination of the elect (Shank, R.)

III. Is There a Such Thing as Free Will or Choice?

A. Major Proponents of Man’s Ability to Choose

- a. Jacob Arminius- Four divine decrees¹; Synergism
- b. John Cassian- Predestination = blasphemy based on 1 Tim 2:4
- c. John Wesley- Agreed with Arminius
- d. Karl Barth- Christ Himself is the Elect of God

B. Scriptures used to support man’s ability to respond/choose

Ezekiel 18:23, 32; John 3:16,17; 1 John 2:2; 1 Timothy 2:3-6; 4:10; Titus 2:11; 2 Pet 3:9

C. If Man Can Choose, is God Still Sovereign?

Isaiah 43:25; Job 38:1-7; Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 8:4; Matthew 1:17,18

V. Does God Truly Predestinate Some to Destruction

Only two examples: Exodus 10:1,2 [Pharaoh]; John 17:12 [Judas] *son of perdition*

VI. Is God Responsible for Evil

See Genesis 3:1-6

VII. Will Everyone Go to Heaven?

Numbers 11:1-3; 1 Kings 18:13; 1 Kings 19:15-18; Zechariah 13:8,9; Revelation 6:9-11; Revelation 7; Revelation 20:7-15

¹ Kirk R. MacGregor, “Predestination,” ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016)