

## PREDESTINATION

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, **predestination** is “God in consequence of his foreknowledge of all events infallibly guides those who are destined for *salvation*” (*emphasis mine*). Some would go further and say that God determined, in advance, **all** the events and choices of your life. Still others believe that God has given his human family freewill with the right to make decisions and choose their own paths in this life and the one beyond. Debate, sometimes quite spirited, about these differing views has been present in the life of the faith community for all of human history.

### Biblical References

Many references can be found in the Bible about predestination. One of the links at the end of this article points to a website where you will find 37 scriptures that speak to this topic. Two of those are key biblical passages on predestination:

“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified” **(Romans 8:29-30)**.

“He predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will...In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will” **(Ephesians 1:5, 11)**.

The word in Greek translated to English as *predestined* is **proorizo**, meaning ‘determined or decided ahead of time.’ The question is *what* did God determine or decide ahead of time?

### Predestination of Individuals or the Result?

Some read these passages and are convinced that God predetermined *which individuals* would find salvation (called the *elect* in the Bible) and who would not. Those holding to this view would also point to **Matthew 24:22; Mark 13:20; Romans 8:33; Colossians**

**3:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:4; 1 Timothy 5:21; Titus 1:1; 1 Peter 1:1-2 and 2 Peter 1:10)** as supporting evidence. And they would have a strong case.

Others, however, would say that our all-knowing God already knew who would come to salvation and that what He predetermined or predestined was that they would be *conformed to the image of Jesus*. In other words, ‘conformed to the likeness of his Son’ was what God predetermined and He knew all along who they would be. Interpreting it this way, ‘conformation to the likeness of Christ’ was the predestined *result* for those God already knew would embrace it.

### God Is Sovereign

The overarching concept that must be kept in focus is God’s sovereignty. God has been and is accomplishing His purposes in history, whether we think they’re fair and whether we fully understand them or not. God’s wisdom far exceeds ours.

“For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men” **(1 Corinthians 1:25)**.

“Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! **(Romans 11:33)**.”

### Closing Thoughts

God has predestined what is in His perfect will. Regardless of *what* is predetermined by God, the issue of predestination should not separate us. Strive to better understand the issue and love all believers as they strive to do the same.

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This is an introduction on the subject of **Predestination**. Here are some other resources you may wish to explore:

[What Is Predestination? \(christianity.com\)](#)

[What is predestination? Is predestination biblical? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[What is predestination? \(Is it foreknowledge?\) - BibleTruths](#)

[What is Predestination? Biblical Support and Truths \(crosswalk.com\)](#)

[Help! I'm Struggling with the Doctrine of Predestination | Crossway Articles](#)

[37 Interesting Bible Verses About Predestination | Ryan Hart](#)