

The Mystery of Predestination

"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: That we should be to praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ" (Ephesians 1:11-12).

We had talked about the word of "predestinated", that stumbles so many of them. It's God's Word. He uses it, "**for we are predestinated by the Word of God**" (*Eph. 1:3-5*). And when you're predestinated, why, it has to happen, because it is that. **God chose you because He knew what you would do from the beginning.** [1]

Now, the **Book of Ephesians**, to my opinion, is **one of the greatest Books of the New Testament**. It leaves us on where Calvinism (total predestination) runs out on one limb, and Arminianism (no predestination) runs out on the other limb, but the Book of Ephesians draws it together and **positionally places the church**.

Election looks back to foreknowledge, and predestination looks to destiny. Don't forget that, that election looks back here, here it is, "I was a cocklebur. I was born in sin, shaped in iniquity, come to the world speaking lies, born amongst sinners. Father and mother and all my whole family, sinners. I was a cocklebur. **But all of a sudden I become a wheat grain.** How did it happen?" **What is that? Election. God, before the foundation of the world, elected that the cocklebur was to become a grain of wheat.** "Now, I know I'm a grain of wheat, **because I'm saved.** How do I do it?" Look back and see that He predestinated it, long time ago. **By foreknowledge He seen that I would love Him**, so He made a propitiation through His Own Son (*II Cor. 5:18-19*), **that through Him** I might become from a cocklebur to a grain of wheat. Now, where am I at now? I'm saved; I'm walking in the grace of God. **What does predestination look? To destiny.** Where will He take me to, **and where am I going?** That's got you. There you are. [2]

How was our inheritance given to us, through what? Predestination. **Predestination is foreknowledge.** How did God know He could trust you to be a preacher? His foreknowledge. "*Not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy*" (*Romans 9:14-16*). That's right. Predestination, **He knew what was in you. He knew what was in you before you even come on the earth. He knew what was in you before there was an earth for you to come on.** That's Him. **That's the infinite God, the infinite. We're finite; we can only think finite.** [3]

He put man on free moral agency, "If you take this you live, if you take that you die" (*Gen. 2:15-17*). And every man that comes into the world **is still set with the same thing. God, by His foreknowledge, knew who would and who would not.**

The question was asked by a theologian, that's been attending the meetings or hearing the tape; said, "One question. Then is God omnipresent?" Then he said, "He can be everywhere?"

I said, "He is not omnipresent in the way that the word speaks omnipresent. He cannot be a Being and then be an omnipresent. If He's omnipresent, why would you pray for the Holy Spirit? If He's omnipresent, He fills every crack, corner, crevice, every cell, fiber, everything else there is. Why did He hunt for Moses if He's omnipresent at the end? Why did He run up and down the garden of Eden, crying, 'Adam, Adam, where art thou?' if He's omnipresent?" (*Gen. 3:8-10*).

He's omnipresent because He's omniscient. He knows everything because He's infinite, being infinite makes Him omnipresent. **Being infinite, then He sets in the heavens, He abides in a place because He is a Being.**

But being infinite, then He knows all things, knowing every time a gnat bats its eye; knowing every bumblebee, where he goes into the comb to get his honey. He knows every sparrow that sets in the tree. He knows every thought that's in your mind, because He is infinite and omniscient (*Psalms 139:1-18*). That is, He not only is He infinite, He's omniscient; He knows everything. But He is a Being. **God is a Being**, and out of this Being begin to bring forth these.

Therefore now, God sets. He's already manifested Himself, He's God. He's already manifested Himself as a Saviour: man was lost and He saved us (*Eph. 2:8*). He's already manifested Himself as a Healer (*Isaiah 53:4-5*). Don't make any difference what people say He is; and He is, anyhow, just the same. He's a Healer; He's a Saviour; He's God; He's eternal. And He has a purpose and **His purpose was in the beginning, to make creatures that would love Him and worship Him.**

And He made creatures, and creatures fell. And then God, by His infinity, looked down through the **stream of time** and saw every man that would be saved. Every man, **He knew it by foreknowledge. Therefore if He, by foreknowledge, knew who would be saved and who would not be saved, He could predestinate** (*I Tim. 2:3-4*). Therefore, **in order to catch those who would**, He had to make a propitiation for their sins (*I John 2:2*).

He predestinated us to Eternal Life, knowing that those who **would lay aside everything**, and no matter how indifferent it would look towards the children of the world, it wouldn't mean one thing to them, because they were children of God.

And He called them (*Acts 2:38-39*), and He sent Jesus, that His Blood might be an atonement, Blood atonement, to make a propitiation, or an

acceptions, or a cleansing, a cleansing process to constantly, not just one time at one revival, but ever living, making intercessions (*Heb. 7:25*), **that the Christian is kept clean day and night**. There is **the Blood of Jesus Christ that makes an accepton on the cross there** (*Col. 1:18-20*), **in the Presence of God, that cleanses us constantly, day and night, from all sin** (*Rom. 8:33-34*). And we are safely tucked in (*II Tim. 2:19*). Tucked in how? **By the Holy Spirit into the Body of the Lord Jesus** (*I Cor. 12:13*) - **and safe**. "*He that heareth My Words and believeth on Him that sent Me, has Everlasting Life and shall never come into the judgment, but has passed from death unto Life*" (*John 5:24*). No more judgment, **the Christian never goes to the judgment** (*Rom. 8:1*). **Christ went for him**. My Attorney stood in my place. He pleaded my case, that I was ignorant. He told the Father that I wasn't worthy, that I was ignorant. **But He loved me and He took my place**, and pleaded my case; **and today I'm free**. Yes, sir. **And He shed His Blood to offer there for our sins** (*Heb. 9:11-12; Rom. 5:8-10*). [4]

Now, the Lamb in the time of intercessory back here, **He knew that there were names in there that was put in there from the foundation of the world** (*Rev. 17:8*), **and as long as them names have never been manifested on earth as yet, He had to stay there as Intercessor**. Do you get it? **Perfectly predestination...**

All right, He had to stay there, because He came to die for those that God had ordained to Eternal Life (*Acts 13:48*). **By His foreknowledge He saw them, not by His own will. His will was that none should perish, but by His foreknowledge He knew who would and who would not** (*I Tim. 2:3-4*).

Therefore as long as there was one name hadn't never yet been declared in earth, Christ had to stay there as an Intercessor **to take care of that name**. [5]

But God required death, an atonement (*Rom. 6:23; Heb. 2:9-10; Heb. 9:22*). Now, there's a quite a vast difference between religion and salvation. Religion is a covering. **Salvation is a birth, a gift of God**, and it cannot be achieved by any man or any group of man. **It's an individual that God brings this gift to** (*Rom. 3:21-26*). And these gifts of Eternal Life were ordained of God to each individual before we even had a world, according to the Scriptures. The Bible said in Revelation, that the antichrist that was to come upon the earth, **would deceive all that dwelt upon the earth, whose names were not written in the Lamb's Book of Life before the foundation of the world** (*Rev. 13:8*). **God, by His foreknowledge, saw who would come and who wouldn't come, Christ came down to make a way for those who would come. See, knowing the others** (*Acts 22:14*).

If He's God at all, He has to be infinite. And if He's **infinite**, He cannot be infinite without being **omnipotent**. He cannot be omnipotent without being

omnipresent. **He can't be omnipresent without being omniscient. So, you see, all that makes Him God.**

So He knew the end from the beginning. He knew who would and who would not, and He knew there were many who would, so He sent Christ to make an atonement for those who would come. Now, nothing we do can have anything to do with it. Jesus said, "*All the Father has given Me, hath (past tense), will come to Me. And no man can come unless My Father draws Him*" (St. John 6:37,44; 10:27-30). Now, see, **it's all in God's knowledge.**

You say, "Brother Branham, am I in?" **I don't know. I'm hoping I am. We work out our own salvation with fear and trembling** (Phil. 2:12-13). Now, **the Church is predestinated to meet God without spot or wrinkle** (Eph. 5:25-27). Now, if we are in that Church, we are predestinated with that Church. Now, **examine yourself by the Word, then you can check up how far along we are** (II Cor. 13:5). [6]

I tell you, **salvation is an individual affair with man and God alone: one individual, searching out our own salvation with fear and trembling.** And I know no other basis, as a teacher, or as a minister from Christ, than to lay it down upon the Word. I cannot place it on anything else. [7]

God knew the end from the beginning, therefore He could plan everything, that it would work out just to His glory (Rom. 8:28-30). **And that gives us courage, to know that no matter what comes or goes, God is making everything, the clock is ticking just exactly on time** (Eph. 1:3-6).

Sometimes we get weary, upset. We get hastily. We think, "Oh, we must do this, or do that."

But, remember, **God's clock will be just exactly on time.** All these things have to be this way. **It has to all be done according to His great knowledge, His foreknowledge, for by foreknowledge He could predestinate; not by His desire, but by His knowledge. God doesn't predestinate by His desire. He is not willing that any should perish, but by His foreknowledge He knew who would accept it and who would not.** Therefore He can make everything work according to His big time clock that's ticking away, **for He could foretell the end from the beginning.** And, therefore, He knew that we would live in this day. He knew that this would be our day. **He has plans for this day.** He has plans for every day. And never has one of His plans ever failed. **He is always on time** (Eccl. 3:1-11). [8]

He only reveals His Word in the predestinated. Now, when I use the word "predestinate", it's a bad word to use in public, especially when we have mixed crowds between the Arminians and the Calvinists. I've asked you not to think I know It all, but they're both wrong according to the Scripture. **Grace is what God did for me, works is what I do for Him** (James 2:14-26).

But the word, when I use it, "predestinated," that's the only word I know how to make... **It's God's foreknowledge, that He knows. He died that all might be saved (Heb. 2:9); He did; but by His foreknowledge He knew who would and who would not. That's what He knows; I don't know it; you don't know it, so we work out our own salvation with fear and trembling (Phil. 2:12-13).**

Now, but God has His Word set, and has in all ages. **His foreknowledge has caused Him to set in the church, and in the people, certain things that He did from the beginning.** And then the Gospel that's being preached to that age **is only revealed to that certain people; the rest of them don't see it (Matt. 13:10-17).** "*Thank Thee, Father, Thou has hid these things from the eyes of the wise and prudent, and reveal it to babes such as would learn*" (Matthew 11:25). That's predestination. **Not that He did it by, you say, "I'll choose you, and don't choose you." By His foreknowledge He knew what you would do.**

Now, He reveals these things **by His foreknowledge to those who He has ordained to these things; otherwise they don't see it.** Stand right there looking right at it and can't see it (Isaiah 6:9-10). By His foreknowledge He predestinated these things to happen (II Peter 1:21; II Tim. 3:16-17).

He chooses His own person by His foreknowledge. Like He said in Romans 9:10-13 here, that the election of God might stand sure... That Esau and Jacob both born of holy parents, twins, that His election might stand sure and true, He said, "I hate Esau and love Jacob," before either boy was born. See? **He knows what's in man. He knew it from the beginning what it was; therefore He can make everything work just exactly on clock time.** We get all nervous and flusterated; **you never seen Him flusterated;** they don't. See? Everything's working all right; just exactly, the clock's ticking. [9]

That's the only way you'll know Him today (John 17:3), only way you'll get the threefold revelation of God is for the Holy Ghost. And **the only way it can ever be, is you're predestinated to see it.** If it doesn't, you'll never see it. **If you're not predestinated to see it, you'll never see it,** 'cause that Light can flash and you'll go away and make fun of it and explain it away by some intellectual conception when the very God Himself manifesting Himself and proving it. See? **But if it ain't upon you to see it, you won't see it.**

God never just said, "I'll choose this one, choose that one..." Reason He could predestinate is because He's infinite, and He knows everything. He's infinite, so therefore He knew everything. **He knew the end, and could tell the end from the beginning.** He's God. If He can't do that, He's not God. That's it. He's infinite. [10]

I believe there is a Bride that's predestinated. I believe God said He would have a Church without spot or wrinkle (Eph. 5:25-27). I believe in

predestination: **that the Bride is predestinated** (*Eph. 1:3-9*); **She's got to be there, I hope I'm with Her. I'm with Her.** Now, **it's up to me to work out my own salvation with God until these things are approved of God and then sealed into the Kingdom of God.** There's the Holy Spirit. There's the genuine works of God. It's sealed until the day of redemption (*Eph. 4:30*).

Let me say it real good so you get it: The Church is predestinated to be there. I want to be with It, but the only way I'll be with It, **is to be part of It.**

How do I become part of It? **By being in It.** How do I get in It? **By baptism, by one Spirit.** *I Corinthians 12:13*, "*By one Spirit we are all baptized into one Body... and have been all made to drink into one Spirit*" - one Body, baptized into it (*I Cor. 12:27*).

You can't stick these little things, say, "I spoke with tongues. I got It." You go out here, and angry, and swear, and carry on, that's putting peacock feathers in a jay-bird. See? You can't do it. **Your own life proves that it's not. But when these things are operating in you by God, then you're sealed** (*Eph. 1:13-14*). Then there's no put-on about it. You're just yourself. That's when visions, perfect Holy Spirit works of God, everything is made manifest. **Because why? You and Christ become one** (I hope that's understood), **you and Christ become one** (*Eph. 4:4-6*). [11]

God, before the foundation of the world, **Who knew the end from the beginning, by foreknowledge He elected where to cut;** He knew the difference between Esau and Jacob. He knew the difference between sinner and saint. He knew the difference. **He knows the motive of every heart, so He elected us before the foundation of the world and put our names on the Lamb's Book of Life; and also the Lamb that was to be slain** (and put our names on before He was slain), and the Bible said that Christ was the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world. When He was elected back there to be the Lamb to be slain, we were elected to be the one that He was slain for (*Rev. 13:8*). [12]

Then when God slayed the Lamb in His own thinking before the foundation of the world to prove out His attributes, what He was, when the Lamb was slain, we were slain with It. When the blood of the Lamb was caught in His Own mind back there before the foundation of the world, mine and your names were written on the Book then. All in His great thinking. He's infinite. If He didn't, why did He permit it? [13]

Many times when we look at the Scriptures in our own way of looking, it seems very hard, but if we study It a little while, we find out that the all-wise God knows just what He's doing. And He knows how to do these things and how to deal with men. **He knows what's in man** (*I Cor. 2:11-16*). He knows him. We don't. **We only know from the intellectual side. He knows what's**

really in the man. For the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the imaginations of the thoughts (*I Chron. 28:9*).

We see with Moses how he was born in this world as a gifted boy; He was born to be a prophet, a deliverer. He was born with the equipment born in him, as every man that comes into the world is born with this equipment. As I firmly believe in the foreknowledge of God, the predestination - **not that God is willing that any would perish, but all might come to repentance** - but being God, He had to know, **and does know the end from the beginning.** If He doesn't, then He isn't infinite; and if He is not infinite, He isn't God. So He wasn't willing, certainly, that any should perish, **but He, knowing who would perish and who would not perish.**

That's the reason, the very purpose that Jesus came to the earth was **to save those that God through His foreknowledge seen that wanted to be saved, because the whole world was condemned. And I don't see how we could teach it any other way than the foreknowledge of God.** And the Bible plainly says that He knows the end from the beginning and could tell it. Therefore, **when a person tries to be something that they are not,** they're only making it an impersonation; and sooner or later it'll find you out. Your sins finds you out. You cannot cover them. **There's only one covering for sin; that's the Blood of Jesus Christ, and it cannot be applied unless God has called you from the foundation of the world.** [14]

Oh, I hope that God gets this to your heart. **It's nothing you can educate yourself to, it's nothing you can read yourself into. It's what God, by election, does for you.** "*So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy*" (*Romans 9:14-16*). [15]

I've always constraining people, "Go to church, no matter where you go." And I seen the people kind of pulling back, and going this way. And I thought, "What's the matter?" I went to some of them. "The first day you're there, they'll approach you: 'Join our church.' If you don't do it, you're not welcome." It's a forced thing; it's forced upon you, and that's Babylon. **But in Christ, you come in by election, not by force; your heart pulls you in.** [16]

Many of the questions here on (the Bride and the church): "Well, will the Bride... Will this? The church and....?" **You can't divide what they are. The Bride is the Elected of God (*John 15:16*). The church goes through the (tribulation).** That's the ones It says, "Whosoever will, let him come" (*Rev. 22:17*). **But the Bride is the Elected of God.**

There are five offices elected of God. "For God has set in the church apostles, prophets, teachers, pastors, evangelists" (*Eph. 4:11; I Cor. 12:28-30*). **God did that. Man has deacons and so forth,** and everything else, but you see, **God set in the church for the perfecting of the church--can't divide it.** [17]

There's so much make-belief going on sensations and different things like that. But when in your heart you believe it (*Rom. 10:8-10*), **when something has happened to you, it's God did it**, and God's the only One that can do it. **So God by grace and election put that in your heart to believe it**. It wasn't there to begin with, and you had no way of putting it there. **God placed it there and you answered the call.** [18]

And then when the Holy Spirit come... And you're on earth, walking around here as a sinner; **way down in your life there's something**. You don't know what's taking place, **but you're hungering** (*Matt. 5:6*). **There's something in you, something that you never put in there**. It's something that you couldn't desire to be in there. **It's something that's contrary to your own nature**. It's the foreknowledge of God taking place, God's Word. [19]

The Holy Spirit is given to bring Life to those Seeds that God, by His foreknowledge, knew that would be here on the earth. As He knew the first natural seed, **He knows where the spiritual Seed is**. Your body was laying here right then on the earth, when God first brought the earth into existence. We are a part of the earth. We were laying there. **And by His foreknowledge He knew exactly who would love Him and who would serve Him, and who would not**. His foreknowledge tells that. If it doesn't, then He isn't God. He can't be God without being infinite. **And if He's infinite, He knows all things.** [20]

Reference:

- [1] "Power of Transformation" (65-1031M), par. 237
- [2] "Adoption Pt. 1" (60-0515), par. 106
- [3] "Adoption Pt. 4" (60-0522E), par. 89
- [4] "Adoption Pt. 3" (60-0522M), par. 47-55
- [5] "The First Seal" (63-0318), par. 59
- [6] "Why I'm Against Organized Religion" (62-1111), par. 34-37
- [7] "The Indictment" (63-0707), par. 106
- [8] "Super Sign" (63-1129), par. 10-12
- [9] "Trying To Do God A Service Without It Being God's Will" (65-1127B), par. 131-139
- [10] "Christ Is The Mystery Of God Revealed" (63-0728), par. 335-336
- [11] "Blasphemous Names" (62-1104), par. 172-175
- [12] "The Ten Virgins" (60-1211M), par. 191
- [13] "The Serpent's Seed" (58-0928E), par. 96-97
- [14] "Why Cry? Speak" (63-0714M), par. 31-32
- [15] "Hearing, Recognizing, Acting On The Word Of God" (60-0221), par. 57
- [16] "God's Only Provided Place Of Worship" (65-1128M), par. 204-205
- [17] "Questions & Answers" (64-0823E), COD-Book pg. 1005, par. 53-54
- [18] "Abraham And His Seed After Him" (61-0423), par. E-33
- [19] "The Easter Seal" (65-0410), par. 63
- [20] "One In A Million" (65-0424), par. 62-63

Spiritual Building-Stone No. 93 (updated 2020) from the Revealed Word of this hour, compiled by: Gerd Rodewald, Friedenstr. 69, D-75328 Schömberg, Germany www.biblebelievers.de

There's coming one with a Message that's straight on the Bible, and quick work will circle the earth. The seeds will go in newspapers, reading material, until every predestinated Seed of God has heard It.
[Bro. Branham in „Conduct-Order-Doctrine“, page 724]