

Summary of Scripture Words.

Foreknowledge, Predestination.

Foreknowledge

The basic meaning is "to have awareness of something before it happens or exists " The word "Predestination" is often used in translations and has a similar but not quite the same meaning. For example:-

Romans 8:28,30.

"29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."

We have the complete life of a Believer, God knew that the person would take His offer and therefore Justified and then glorified that person, note these are all past tense. This is not the same meaning:-

1 Corinthians 2:7

"7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:"

As the decisions made by God are eternal, so therefore His foreknowledge must also be eternal. Foreknowledge covers all subjects dealt with by God, it includes "Election" and "Predestination", these subjects are directly connected to foreknowledge.

The writers of the New Testament have assumed that the Lord is the sovereign Lord of all events, and rules that history for the fulfilling of His purposes. This means that any prophecies made in the Old Testament must also be fulfilled in the New Testament. For example:-

Matthew 1:21-23.

"21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

Matthew 2:14-18.

"14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.

16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.

17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying,

18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not."

John 12:37-43

"37 But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him:

38 That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?

39 Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again,

40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.

41 These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.

42 Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue:

43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God."

These and similar records were to show the disciples and us that God is eternal and knows all things. Some other examples; Matt 8:17: John 14:24, 28, 36: Acts 2:17ff, Acts 3:22ff; Acts 4:25ff: Gal 3:8:

The birth, ministry and death were all prophesied in the Old Testament, we can actually go back to Genesis 3:15

"15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

Right from the beginning God knew what was going to happen. Unfortunately we have to ask, if God knew what was about to happen, why did He create Adam and Eve. The answer is His love for His creation .

There are places where it appears that God did not know what was happening, when He repents and reverses His prior action, but in the biblical text it shows that God is really personal and not that He is getting it wrong, He foreordains and controls all human affairs.

Genesis 6:5-8

"5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD."

It appears that God knows who will turn to Him and these were "given" to Jesus, His sheep, to draw them to Himself by the power of the Holy Spirit, that they may have eternal life. This may cause some heart searching, but it is the foreknowledge of God, He knows who, but they have to make the choice.

John 6:36-40

"36 But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not.

37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day."