

## Predestination

God is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.<sup>1</sup> He created *all* things through his Son<sup>2</sup> including the heavens and the earth.<sup>3</sup> There is not a single thing created that God did not create, and he knows all of it intimately.<sup>4</sup>

He knows all things about his creation; nothing is hidden from him.<sup>5</sup> He not only knows his creation in the present, but he foreknew his creation from the past.<sup>6</sup> In other words, God knew everything about his creation before he even created it.<sup>7</sup>

God in his foreknowing predestined all things, whether people, places, events<sup>8</sup>, etc. This is to say that God has a plan for all of creation and through his providence<sup>9</sup> he will bring it about in the fullness of time, his time.<sup>10</sup> Thus, he did not merely create and then look into the future to see what would happen.

For example, in Genesis 15:13-16 the Lord confidently told Abram that his descendants would be slaves in another land for 400 years, but they would leave that land with great riches. This came to pass in Exodus 12:33-36 when the Israelites plundered the Egyptians as they left their bondage for the land promised to them. Even before this exodus, God told Moses that he would harden Pharaoh's heart so that Pharaoh would not let the people go initially, and it happened exactly so.<sup>11</sup> The greatest example though is the numerous, fulfilled prophecies of Jesus Christ throughout the Bible.<sup>12</sup>

Not only does God the Father predestine events for nations, but he also predestines the lives of believers, the elect<sup>13</sup>, to be conformed into the image of his Son.<sup>14</sup> He also prepared beforehand the good works the saints

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<sup>1</sup> Revelation 21:6; 22:13

<sup>2</sup> John 1:1-3; Revelation 19:11-13

<sup>3</sup> Genesis 1:1

<sup>4</sup> Psalm 139:1-4

<sup>5</sup> Hebrews 4:13

<sup>6</sup> Psalm 139:16

<sup>7</sup> Acts 15:18; Isaiah 46:9-10

<sup>8</sup> Acts 2:23

<sup>9</sup> See the position paper, "God's Providence."

<sup>10</sup> 2 Peter 3:8-9

<sup>11</sup> Exodus 4:21

<sup>12</sup> Zechariah 12:10; Psalm 22:18

<sup>13</sup> Ephesians 1:11; See the position paper, "Election."

<sup>14</sup> Romans 8:29-30; Ephesians 1:4-5

would perform.<sup>15</sup> Only by grace through faith are we saved for he alone is God and predestined it as such.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Ephesians 2:10

<sup>16</sup> Psalm 86:9-10