

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

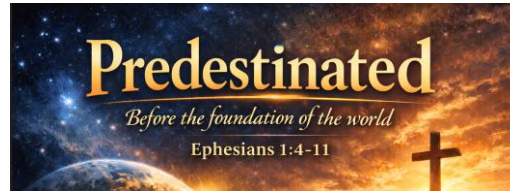
Current Book: Ephesians – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: Ephesians 1:4-14 – God’s eternal plan from the foundation of the world

Today’s Message:

“Predestinated”

INTRODUCTION



Last week, we began a new book – *Ephesians*. We looked at the history of the church from the book of Acts to the book of Revelation. This church was fully purposed to bring God glory – and they did! Yet Jesus Christ wrote to them decades later and said they had left their first love. We must all be careful to fan the flames of our love for Jesus Christ every day. Today, we will learn of God’s eternal plan from before the foundation of the world! This is a passage that is misunderstood and used to lead many people astray from the clear teaching of Scripture. We will be reminded of the importance of context and comparing Scripture with Scripture to illuminate the words of truth in the blessed book of God. Pay careful attention today, and do not allow the Devil to distract you. This is God’s message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ The Text Ephesians 1:4-14

A. Eternity Past – the book begins with *before the foundation of the world!*

1. God is Omniscient – He is **all**-knowing... along with **all**-powerful, and **all**-present!

- Psalm 147:5 – *Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.*
- Isaiah 46:9-11 – ... **Declaring the end from the beginning...** the things... not yet done...
- Isaiah 57:15 – *For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity...*
- Psalm 90:2 – ... **from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.**
- God does not learn or discover things. He never says, “I didn’t see that coming.”
- God knows the past, the present, and the future perfectly.
- God exists outside of time – we live inside time. But God is eternal.
- There is none like God! He sees the entire timeline of history at **ONCE!**

Romans 11:33

O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

2. God has Foreknowledge – He knows beforehand what will happen in the future.

- Acts 2:23 – *Him, being delivered by... **determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God...***
- Romans 8:29 – *For **whom he did foreknow**, he also did predestinate to be conformed...*
- Romans 11:2 – *God hath not cast away **his people which he foreknew...***
- 1 Peter 1:2 – *Elect according to **the foreknowledge of God...***
- Imagine reading the beginning, middle, and end of a book simultaneously!

Example

If human life is like reading a book one page at a time, then God sees the entire book at once.

“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world...”

Before there was a world... before the mountains and oceans were formed... before Adam took his first breath, God already knew the entire story of human history. He knew man would fall. He knew sin would corrupt the world. And He had an eternal plan!

3. *The foundation of the world* – this phrase is found **10** times in the KJV.

Follow along...

1. Secrets kept
2. Kingdom prepared
3. Blood of prophets
4. The Father's love
5. Chosen in Christ
6. Works finished
7. Suffered since
8. Jesus foreordained
9. The Lamb slain
10. The book of life

- *Matthew 13:35* – ... I will utter things... **kept secret from** *the foundation of the world.*
- *Matthew 25:34* – ... **the kingdom prepared** *for you from the foundation of the world.*
- *Luke 11:50* – ...**blood of...** prophets, **which was shed from** *the foundation of the world*
- *John 17:24* – Father... **thou lovest me** [Jesus] **BEFORE** *the foundation of the world.*
- *Eph 1:4* – According as **he hath chosen us in him** **BEFORE** *the foundation of the world.*
- *Hebrews 4:3* – ...my rest... **the works were finished from** *the foundation of the world.*
- *Hebrews 9:26* – For then **must he often have suffered since** *the foundation of the world*
- *1 Pet 1:20* – Who [Jesus] verily was **foreordained** **BEFORE** *the foundation of the world...*
- *Revelation 13:8* – ... the book of life of **the Lamb slain from** *the foundation of the world.*
- *Revelation 17:8* – ... **not written in the book of life from** *the foundation of the world...*

⇒ Piecing God's truth together = "**BEFORE** the foundation of the world"

1) Jesus, the Lamb of God, was **CHOSEN before** the foundation of the world.

- Before God created the universe:
 - ✓ Christ was already appointed (foreordained) as the Lamb of God.
 - ✓ The sacrifice of Jesus Christ was planned before creation.

2) Believers were **CHOSEN in Him before** the foundation of the world.

- Before God created the universe:
 - ✓ Christ was chosen and an epic redemption of fallen man was planned!
 - ✓ Those who get saved would be placed *in Christ* and share in that plan!

3) The Lamb of God was **SLAIN** in God's eternal plan.

- In God's eternal plan:
 - ✓ The Lamb of God was already appointed. (*Revelation 13:8*)
 - ✓ The sacrifice and cross were already determined. (*Acts 2:23*)
 - ✓ Redemption was already prepared. (*Ephesians 1:5, 11*)

THE KEY Before the foundation of the world, God determined what would happen to everyone who trusted the Lord Jesus Christ.

1:4, 7 ... they would be **FORGIVEN** and **REDEEMED**.

1:5, 6 ... they would be **ADOPTED** and **ACCEPTED**.

1:8-14 ... they would receive the **HOLY SPIRIT** and **INHERITANCE**.

1:6, 12-14 ... they would **SHARE** in the glory of Christ.

Important Note

Long before the world began, God designed a plan that anyone who would believe and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour would be placed into Him and share in His redemption, His righteousness, and His inheritance.

The destination was already determined before it happened!

B. *The Believer's Destiny* – Paul did not say God chose who would believe!

4. *Predestinated unto Adoption* – God predetermined **WHAT** believers would become!

- *Ephesians 1:5* – *Having predestinated us UNTO THE ADOPTION OF CHILDREN by Jesus Christ unto himself, according to THE GOOD PLEASURE of HIS WILL,*

"Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ..."

Predestination refers to the destiny of believers, not the selection of who becomes a believer. Predestination concerns the future transformation of believers, not the selection of who will believe. The Bible clearly teaches that salvation is available to all people – John 3:16; 1 Tim 2:4; 2 Pet 3:9