

Predestination

And the Doctrine
of
Divine Hardening

Romans 8:29-30 (NKJV Strong's,)

29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30

Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Romans 8:28-30 (NKJV Strong's,)

28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

- “Predestined” is not referring to Salvation, but to “conformed”.
- Not a scripture about Salvation but “destiny” of becoming in Christ what God intends and has “provided” for each Believer.

Purpose

Romans 9:10-13 (NKJV Strong's,)

10 And not only this, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac 11 (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that **the purpose of God** according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), 12 it was said to her, “The older shall serve the younger.” 13 As it is written, “Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.”

Election?

- This is not speaking of two individuals but rather two “Nations”.

Genesis 25:23 (NKJV Strong's,)

23 And the Lord said to her: “Two nations are in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; One people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger.”

“It’s not about heaven or hell but about service to God. It’s “National” not “Personal”. Not “Salvation” but “Service”.”

–Dr Adrian Rodgers

Does God hate some
people?

“Before you were born or had
done anything good or bad
God decided whether
to save you or not.”

-John Piper



Romans 9:11-13 (NKJV Strong's,)

11 (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls),
12 it was said to her, “The older shall serve the younger.” 13 As it is written, “Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.”

Love and Hate

- Love and hate meant something different in Bible times than it does today.
- God is actually saying, “I “prefer” the one, not “abhor” the other.

Luke 14:26 (NKJV Strong's,)

26 “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

So, does God hate
people?

John 3:16-17 (NKJV Strong's,)

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

God's Sovereignty Views

- Calvinism: Holds to God's power of absolute self-determination...
- "God does His own actions, and that they are in accord with His own choices." .
John S. Feinberg
- That is to say, God is in complete control over event. No free will. Predetermined. Predestined.

Divine Concurrency

- The Arminian view: The cooperation of God and a person in a combined effort to produce an action.
- Concurrency is the cooperation of agents or causes. A combined action or effort.
- God's Sovereignty and our responsibility co-exist.

“It is incompatible to say that God is absolutely sovereign and man is absolutely free.”

–Ravi Zacharias



Pharaoh
Divine Hardening?

Did God harden Pharaoh's heart?

Romans 9:17-18 (NKJV Strong's,)

17 For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth." 18 Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.

Formed not Created!

Romans 9:19-21 (NKJV Strong's,)

19 You will say to me then, “Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?” 20 But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing **formed** say to him who **formed** it, “Why have you made me like this?” 21 Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?

- 18 times scripture refers to this hardening.
- It was Pharaoh who resisted God hand and work in his life.
- He hardened his own heart.
He resisted God' "shaping".

2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV Strong's,)

9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, **but is longsuffering toward us,** not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Vessels of Wrath?

Romans 9:22 (NKJV Strong's,)

22 What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the **vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,**

- W.E. Vines: The middle voice indicates that the “vessels of wrath” fitted themselves for destruction.

Well, what is happening here then?

- This is a Genesis 6:3 scenario, “My Spirit shall not always strive with man.”.
- The fact that God “endured much long suffering with Pharaoh and the Egyptians shows a work of grace.
- Patience ran out and the promise to Abraham had to be fulfilled. (400 years of Genesis 15:13)

Well, what is happening here then?

- The usage of “Vessels of wrath” is speaking of “outcome” not “predetermination”.
- The reasoning is this, Genesis 12:3 declares, “In you all the families of the earth will be blessed”.
- The calling was not exclusive to the Jews but to the Gentiles as well.
- “Prepared for destruction” refers only to God’s patient long-suffering and the outcome of continual resistance.

THANK

YOU