

Pre- Destination

Such a **Simple** Subject

So **Easy** to Understand



Style of writing!

I love bullet points!

Don't talk me to death.

Give me your bottom line first and then make your explanation brief.
That is why:

- My table of contents gives the main subjects!
- The Intro. briefly answers each question in the booklet.
- The chapters are brief studies, filling in each point.

Table of Contents

1. What are the **four major** interpretations of **Pre-destination?**
2. What is the **“End Times vs. Individual Free Will”** interpretation?
3. What about **Romans 9?**
4. What is the **“God’s promise to reach those who WANT to understand”** interpretation?
5. What are the **last two interpretations?**



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1. What are the **Four Major** interpretations of **Pre-destination?**

It helps so much to not hear only one person's limited opinion.

(Expanded study in chap. 1 – pg. 1)

2. What is the “**End Times vs. Individual Free Will**” interpretation?

This is the one that almost everyone sees as the most Biblical.

(Expanded study in chap. 2 – pg. 3)

3. What about **Romans 9?**

This is so easily explained.

(Expanded study in chap. 3 – pg. 5)

4. What is the “**God’s promise to reach those who WANT to understand**” interpretation?

This one is less common but fascinating and Biblical.

(Expanded study in chap. 4 – pg. 9)

5. What are the **last two interpretations?**

One of these last two is extremely un-biblical.

(Expanded study in chap. 5 – pg. 11)

Chap. 1

What are the **Four Major**
interpretations of **Pre-destination?**

There are **four major interpretations** of what the word “*Predestination*” means and how it applies to our daily life as a Christian.

In this brief study, I will list all four interpretations. They are:

1. **End Times** vs. **Individual Free Will**
2. **God's promise** to **reach** those who **WANT** to **understand**
3. It is a **Mystery!**
4. **Man** actually does **NOT** have a **Free Will!**

End Times vs. Individual Free Will

This is the **strongest, clearest** and **simplest** interpretation of God's Word on the subject of "Predestination"

There are three major reasons why this could be accurate.

1. The Clear Message of Scripture

There are 31,173 total verses in the Bible.

There are:

- **29** verses in the Bible on "**Predestination**" and
- **31,154** verses in the Bible on "**Free Will**"

Predestination is a **side** subject in the Bible.

It is **NOT** a **major** subject but is simply a **rabbit trail** that the Apostle Paul traveled to **explain** how **God's Purpose** in the **End Times** will be fulfilled.

Scripture has **many examples** of how God is able to fulfill his promises and yet **NOT violate** man's **individual free will**.

Perhaps Mordecai said it best when he told Esther:

*Esther 4:14 For IF you remain silent at this time, **relief** and **deliverance** for the Jews **WILL ARISE** from **ANOTHER** place, but **you** and your father's family **will PERISH**. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"*

This verse in Esther really **closes** the **subject** on the possibility that you have **no choice** in your **eternal destiny**. Please read it again carefully.

Mordecai makes it **VERY CLEAR** to Esther that **GOD'S PURPOSES** are **totally** and **definitely** going to be **FULFILLED**.

In **addition**, he makes it clear to Esther that **she** has a **CHOICE**.

- If she **chooses** to **cooperate**, she will be **blessed**.
- If she **resists God**, **she** will **pay** the **price**, but **God's will** in the **overall purpose** and plan God has can **NOT be stopped**.

Here is **another example** of Jesus explaining that Predestination has more to do with God's end times plan than about individual free will.

*Mt.18:7 Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin. Such things **MUST COME**
But **WOE** to the man **THROUGH WHOM** they come.*

Notice how clearly Jesus states that:

- God's **ETERNAL** plan **will** be **fulfilled** and it is **IMPOSSIBLE** for it to **not** take place ...
- **BUT** each person is **RESPONSIBLE** for **how** they **CHOOSE** to participate in or to resist God's plan.

2. The Logic of the Concept

Predestination is a **simple** subject.

Each individual man has free will, but predestination means that God's overall purpose for humanity will prevail.

Romans 9 deserves a separate chapter.

The main subject of Romans 9

Of the **29** verses on predestination in the Bible, **25** of them are in **Romans 9**.

The **MAIN SUBJECT** of Romans 9 is that God has **PRE-DESTINED** that there **will** be a **time** during the **End Times** when there will be a **Great In-Gathering** of the **Jewish people**.

Every other comment in Romans 9 is simply **expansions** and **explanations** about **how** God can **promise** that there will be a Great In-Gathering of the Jewish people at the End Times.

What about Pharaoh?

Now let's read **what** the **Bible** says about Pharaoh. It is **significant** that **Paul chose Pharaoh**.

Exodus makes this very clear.

TEN TIMES Exodus tells us that

Pharaoh **HARDENED** his **OWN** heart.

Ex. 5:2, 5:4-9, 5:17-18, 7:13, 7:22, 7:23, 8:15, 8:19, 8:32, 9:7

BEFORE

it mentions **six times**

that **God hardened** Pharaoh's heart

Exodus 9:12, 10:1, 10:20, 10:27, 11:10, and 14:8

It seems very **obvious** that
Pharaoh CHOSE to harden his own heart,
 and that **God accelerated** the process
 after Pharaoh had **already made** his **strong choice**.

Chap. 4

What is the
“God’s promise to reach those who
WANT to understand”
interpretation?

There is **only one verse** in the Bible that **EXPLAINS** the subject of “**Predestination**”.

It is:

Romans 8:29

For those God FOREKNEW

he ALSO PREDESTINED

*to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he
might be the firstborn among many brothers*

It is **significant** that
Paul intentionally wrote this verse
ONE chapter BEFORE
he wrote Romans 9
about the End Times gathering of the Jews.

“**Predestination**” **could** be an **explanation** of one of the **questions** that **rings** in the **heart** of **every** passionate Christian. Here is a rough paraphrase of that question.

“*Father, I will live my life to bring you glory and to bring others to you, yet my heart grieves for those who have NEVER HAD A CHANCE to hear the Gospel!*
What about them Father?”

Romans 8:29 could be seen as a **promise** from our **Father** that he knows every heart **BEFORE** they are born. Ps. 139

In His Goodness and Love, He is promising us that He will make sure that **everyone** who **WANTS** to come to **Christ** will be **given** the **opportunity**.

What are the last two interpretations?

Interpretation # 3 –

It is a Mystery

Paul alludes to this when he concludes this subject in Rom. 11:33-34 by saying that this subject is beyond human comprehension.

Interpretation # 4 –

Man actually does NOT have a Free Will.

The deeper you look into this fourth doctrine the weirder & more evil it becomes.

- It requires a **decision** to **ignore tens of thousands** of verses about human choice. Words like “*Chose, Choice, Because, If, Should, Be, Do, Do Not, Therefore, Consequently*” etc. must be “**Explained Away**” in studying the Bible.
- It requires a decision to ignore the fact that the **entire gospel** is **based on choice**
- It requires a decision to ignore the fact that God is **Love** and the basis of **Love** is **Free choice**.
- It requires a decision to ignore the **weird secondary doctrines** that **arise** out of this doctrine. There are a **LOT** of them!
- It requires a decision to **ignore** the lack of **fruit** in the **lives** of those who **passionately teach** this **doctrine**.
- It requires a **decision** to ignore the **weak Bible Study** of those who **passionately teach** this **doctrine**.

Personally, I am **very comfortable** with **all three** of the **first three** interpretations of God’s Word on the subject of “Predestination”.

However, that fourth interpretation - that man does not have a free will - I do **not** see this as an **accurate study of God’s word**.

Below are two of the thousands of scriptures that clearly state that each man has a choice in his eternal destiny.

II Peter 3:3-9 First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

*But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is **patient** with you,*

***not wanting** anyone to perish,
but **everyone** to come to **repentance**.*

*1 Tim. 2:3-4 This is good, and pleases God our Savior,
who **wants all men** to be **saved**
and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

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