The Predestined

Some want us to believe that their god has a list that he made before Genesis 1. If you name is not on it, you cannot be saved. In other words, their god has limited himself to that list (maybe he isn’t all powerful then).

Since Paul told the Romans that “those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son,” then there must be a list. So, who are the *predestined*?

Based on what is seen in the Bible about Yhwh’s nature of making and keeping covenants, it would seem obvious that the *predestined* would be anyone who has made a covenant with Him. This seems to be common sense and fits the entire biblical record. As shown in this booklet, one makes a covenant with Yhwh when they freely respond to the Gospel. This is why John states, “We love, because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19), not because we are forced to love Him.

Jesus sits at the right hand of His Father, ruling over the church, His beloved kingdom. The Gospel is about Him and His Lordship. King Jesus works through His divine Spirit given to us so that we can be equipped to serve. This is the work of God in Christ Jesus (1 Corinthians 12:4–6).

A picture containing graphical user interface

Description automatically generated*The Covenant Gospel*



Built ***through the blood*** of the *eternal covenant*, Jesus our Lord

Lord Jesus

* Mediator of a ***new*** covenant
* Mediator of a **better** covenant
* Guarantee of a **better** covenant

No Other God Like You

**Yhwh’s Covenant Faithfulness**

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To understand the covenant offered through Lord Jesus, it is necessary to understand the Yhwh’s[[1]](#footnote-1) nature and intentions. At the dedication of the first temple, Solomon said,

O Lord, the God of Israel, there is no god like You in heaven or on earth, keeping covenant and *showing* lovingkindness to Your servants who walk before You with all their heart.

(2 Chronicles 6:14)

Three characteristics of Yhwh and one of the servants are given:

1. Keeping: This word holds the idea of guarding something that is very precious.
2. Covenant faithfulness: The two Hebrew concepts are difficult to translate but *covenant faithfulness* is closer to the intent since there is no word for *showing* in the original.
3. Walk: While the word gives the idea of actual walking, in this context it is understood as a *walk through life.* Or, more precisely, a walk in covenant with Yhwh.

To be in covenant with King Jesus, it is essential that we understand how the *covenant faithfulness* of Yhwh reveals His nature and intention. To do this, we must recognize what happened in Genesis 1–11 that required Yhwh to respond by making a covenant that would have worldwide impact.

So Unworthy

Some would have us believe that we are so depraved that we would not know god if He looked us in the face. They say we are *dead in sin* and dead people can’t respond to their god. This is why He chooses Actually, He did look us directly in the face as Jesus. He shared flesh and blood with us (Hebrews 2:14). Jesus said that He had to have a body to do Yhwh’s will (Hebrews 10:5-7).

Since Jesus came to earth and was lifted up, the good news continues to lift Him and we are attracted to that, but know we are not worthy to be part of His kingdom. Paul says that Yhwh *qualifies* us through the redemptive work of Jesus. He does this by rescuing us from the authority of darkness and transferring us into the kingdom of His beloved Son (Colossians 1:12-14). The picture of being redeemed means that Jesus now owns us.

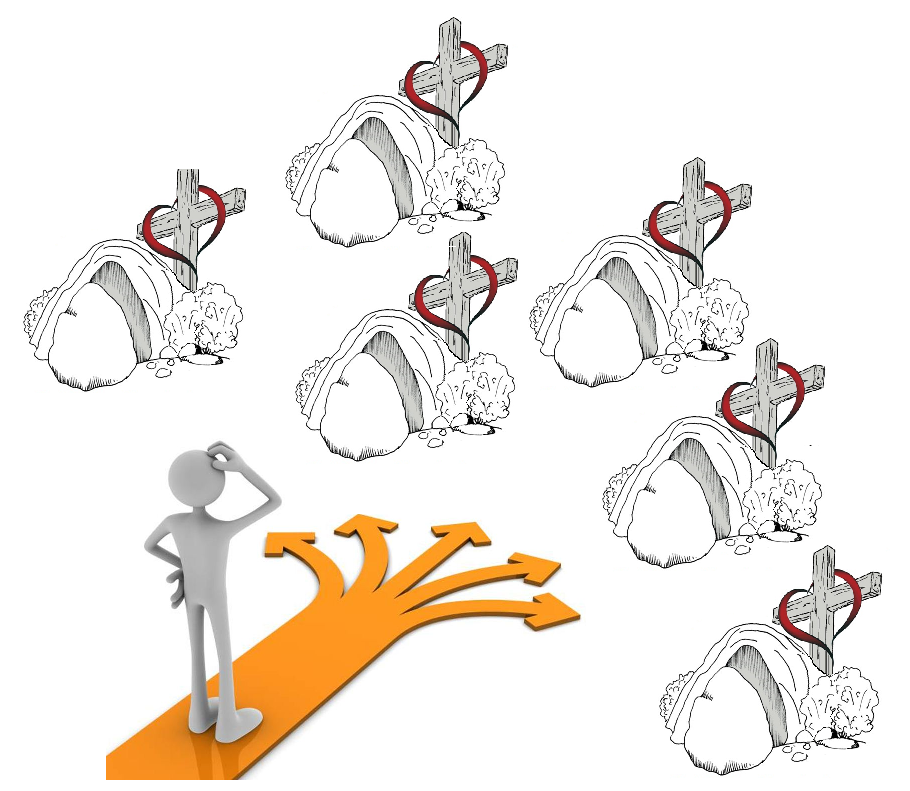
How does Jesus forgive us (Colossians 1:14)? Paul told the Romans that in our baptism, we are placed (submerged; plunged) into the death, burial, and resurrection of Lord Jesus (Romans 6:3–4). He cleans us up before bringing us into the kingdom so that we are clean enough to serve Him (Titus 2:14; Hebrews 9:14). Baptism for the removal of sins (Acts 2:38) is the response of changing our minds about King Jesus, wanting to come under His Lordship. We are prompted to do this because we believe the Gospel about who Jesus is and what He has done to satisfy God’s will.

If I am Lifted Up

Twice in John, Jesus states He will be *lifted up.* The *lifting* is by the sacrificial cross on which He gave His life. In John 12:32, He states that the *lifting* will *draw* men to Him. Some would have people believe that the *drawing* is a *dragging* because a human would not decide to come to Jesus on their own. In John 6:44, it is god who draws, again, like a Greek god who forces himself and his will on humanity. This is why they are *god* with a little “g” in this paper.

However, Paul clarifies Yhwh’s intentions when he wrote, “He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Thessalonians 2:14). Why did Paul change terms? It was because he understood the attraction of the gospel. He understood how appealing Jesus is to the one who recognizes the authority of Jesus.

The Gospel is embodied in the person, life, and ministry of Jesus. It is not just a series of events. Rather, it is **the** person, Messiah Jesus. When Jesus is presented as the one Yhwh has exalted to the highest place. Paul makes this clear in Corinthians 15 when he states ***Christ*** died, buried, and raised. After all, it does matter **who** was on that cross.



Bottom Line: The *dragging* is because we have been overcome by the love of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:14). It is not forced on us. Rather, it is our choice to love because Yhwh first loved us and gave us Jesus to be His light (John 1:1-18; John 3:16). This is how we make a covenant with Yhwh through the blood of Jesus.

Eternal Power and Divine Nature

First, it is Yhwh’s Nature to create.

The Bible tells us that creation is the unquestionable display of His eternal power and divine nature. While science tries to convince us otherwise, the only logical conclusion is that this world (entire universe) is the product of a thinking, logical entity that was able to create the complexity we know this world to be. Science wants the universe to be eternal and the source of what we have and know even though it is non-thinking and non-logical. Which makes more sense?

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NOTE: Man’s Nature.

You don’t have to look far to realize that, while there is good in this world, the bad far outweighs it. While psychology, anthropology, and sociology give descriptions of what they have discovered, only the Bible gives a true picture of what happened.

The Curse

That people die is an unavoidable fact. According to the account Yhwh gave to the Hebrew nation, all creation was cursed with a nature that is temporal.



That is, we all have an expiration date. Yhwh’s answer to this gives the best description of His nature.

Yhwh’s Nature

Genesis 1-11 can be described like this:

Downward Spiral

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1,800 Downward Spiral Illustrations &amp; Clip Art - iStock | Chaos to order in creation |
| Disunity between God and man with the transgression |
| Judgment of the world by the flood |
| Human attempt at unity with the building of the Tower of Babel |

However, all is not lost. Yhwh steps into human history and speaks. “Go!” With this command, Abraham and Yhwh’s plan is put in motion.

Self-Limitation

There is a prominent voice today that is convincing people that their god has a secret plan, choosing a select few who are predestined to salvation. This is the pattern of a Greek god who is all powerful and must demonstrate that power. Fate is his weapon and humanity at his disposal. This is not the biblical picture of Yhwh. Rather, in covenant, He has placed a self-limitation on Himself through which He will rescue those who respond to His invitation.

Covenants and laws are a promise from Yhwh that He will work *only* within them. What had been a mystery has been revealed in Christ (Ephesians 2:9-10). Yhwh has promised to work within the New Covenant that has been built from the blood of Jesus who is the mediator of this new and improved covenant (Hebrews 13:20).

New and Improved

**Prophesied**: Yhwh told Israel about the New Covenant, promising that it was “not like the covenant which I made with their fathers” (Jeremiah 31:31-32). Multiple prophecies promised that a messiah would come to follow through on Yhwh’s plan that started when He told Abraham that one of his descendants would bless the entire world.

**Fulfilled**: Finally, the day arrived for Yhwh to put His plan in motion. Once again, Yhwh intervenes in history. This time, He Himself is invading the world He lost to the prince of darkness who holds people captive by the fear of dying (Hebrews 2:14-14–15).

While here, Jesus fulfilled the Law (Matthew 5:17). What this means is that His sacrifice completed all that Yhwh was trying to teach and accomplish with the Jewish sacrifices. Through His three year ministry, He taught us all we need to know to be fruitful servants in His kingdom. He said, “I came …

* “… that I may preach” (Mark 1:38)
* “… for judgment” (John 9:39)
* “… that they may have life” (John 10:10)

**Passion**: “Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3–4).

**Coronation**: “God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name, which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow … and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:9–11).

1. This is God’s personal name in the Hebrew Bible and will be used in this work to refer to the Hebrew and Christian God. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)