

## Things that God Does to Fulfill His Promises to Abraham: Predestines

And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. (Gen 17:7, ESV)

Use a lexicon and look up the Greek words for “foreknew” and “predestine.” What do you learn?

28) And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29) For those whom he **foreknew** he also **predestined** to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30) And those whom he **predestined** he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. (Rom 8:28-30, ESV)

What did God foreknow and predestine for His plan?

13) Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. 14) But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15) As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. 16) And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

17) When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. 18) On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, (Gen 15:13-18, ESV)

24) And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, 25) who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,

“‘Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? 26) The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed’—

27) for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28) to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. (Acts 4:24-28, ESV)

3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4) even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5) he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6) to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7) In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8) which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9) making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10) as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in him.

11) In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12) so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13) In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14) who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (Eph 1:3-14, ESV)

What did God foreknow and predestine for a person?

29) Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted. 30) And Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!" (Therefore his name was called Edom.) 31) Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright now." 32) Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" 33) Jacob said, "Swear to me now." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. 34) Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright. (Gen 25:29-34, ESV)

2) "I have loved you," says the LORD. But you say, "How have you loved us?" "Is not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the LORD. "Yet I have loved Jacob 3) but Esau I have hated. I have laid waste his hill country and left his heritage to jackals of the desert." 4) If Edom says, "We are shattered but we will rebuild the ruins," the LORD of hosts says, "They may build, but I will tear down, and they will be called 'the wicked country,' and 'the people with whom the LORD is angry forever.'" 5) Your own eyes shall see this, and you shall say, "Great is the LORD beyond the border of Israel!" (Mal 1:2-5, ESV)

10) And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, 11) though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls— 12) she was told, "The older will serve the younger." 13) As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

14) What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! 15) For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." 16) So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. 17) For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." 18) So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills. (Rom 9:10-18, ESV)

5) Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6) and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel." (Ex 19:5-6, ESV)

28) And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29) For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30) And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. (Rom 8:28-30, ESV)

1) Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus: 2) Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4) even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5) he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6) to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. (Eph 1:1-6, ESV)

1) Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2) And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3) And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4) He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

5) And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." 6) And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. 7) The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 8) But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death." (Rev 21:1-8, ESV)