

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined

When reading the Bible, it is vitally important that you understand God's word in the manner that God intends its meaning. Context affects our understanding of a word; but, in the Bible's case, it is not limited to the local context in the few verses before and after the word in question. To get to know God requires knowing the entirety of God's word. It's a lot of work and not easy; however, good relationships with others requires intentional effort.

1. When you carefully examine what and how God chose, what do you learn about His foreknowledge?

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, **who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father**, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure. (1 Pet 1:1-2, NASB)

I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God." (Gen 17:7-8, NASB)

But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY. (1 Pet 2:9-10, NASB)

Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel." (Ex 19:5-6, NASB)

2. For those God foreknew, what did He determine beforehand?

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. (Rom 8:29-30, NASB)

Even so Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU." So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer. (Gal 3:6-9, NASB)

"I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You; for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me. I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours; and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them. (John 17:6-10, NASB)

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Teacher Notes

When reading the Bible, it is vitally important that you understand God's word in the manner that God intends its meaning. Context affects our understanding of a word; but, in the Bible's case, it is not limited to the local context in the few verses before and after the word in question. To get to know God requires knowing the entirety of God's word. It's a lot of work and not easy; however, good relationships with others requires intentional effort.

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Ask the student: is Peter writing to Believers?

Ask the student: What did God commit to choosing to do for Abraham? Did God ever say He will determine who will be Abraham's descendants?

Ask the student: what does this imply about God's foreknowledge?

Hint: When the prophet Samuel was sent to find God's selection of king of Israel after Saul, what did he learn about God?

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (1 Sam 16:7, NASB)

But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY. (1 Pet 2:9-10, NASB)

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Help the student see that Peter's statement of "a chosen race" is based on the Old Testament – Exodus 19:5-6.

Ask the student: who does God choose to be God to? Who becomes a member of God's chosen race, royal priesthood, and of God's own possession?

Ask the student: Do you want to be a member of God's own possession among all the people of the earth? Be prepared to help the student with the gospel.

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Ask the student: what did Abraham do that God judged as righteous?

Abraham had faith in God.

Ask the student: what proof would justify God's evaluation that a Gentile is righteous?

Faith.

Ask the student: was Paul writing to Believers? What did God determine beforehand for Believers?

Believers will be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ – justified and glorified.

"I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You; for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me. I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours; and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them. (John 17:6-10, NASB)

Ask the student: how do Believers become more like Jesus? Give time for discussion.

Sample hint: but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

Through you the Believer, indwelt with the Holy Spirit, the world sees Jesus Christ.