



SAVED TO SERVE
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**DOES GOD PREDESTINATE
WHO GETS SAVED?**

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will discuss the subject of predestination, which is a popular false teaching among certain groups in Christendom.
2. Predestination is the belief that because God knows all things, He has already chosen those who will be saved (the elect) and everyone else will be lost and receive the judgment of eternal hell fire (another false doctrine). They believe human choice plays little to no role in salvation. This belief is largely based on Romans 8:29, 30. Let us now explain the meaning of this scripture.

Current Event: Does God Choose Who Gets Saved? Predestination vs Free Will EXPLAINED | Pastor John MacArthur
[YouTube.com/watch?v=88WvD_Tvv_o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88WvD_Tvv_o)

3. Fill in the blank. In Romans 8:30, those whom God did predestinate, them he also _____?
4. Based on scripture, how many people are "called" to salvation? Matthew 22:2-3, 10, 14

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5. **Note:** Why will only a "few" people be "chosen" to be saved when the Bible says that many are called? This is because a lot of people will choose not to accept God's salvation, just like it was portrayed in the parable of Matthew 22. God gives us many opportunities to be saved, but He will never force our consciences.
 6. Jesus Christ gave His life as a ransom to save us. A ransom is a sum of money or other form of payment paid for the release of a prisoner (1 Peter 1:18-19). For whom did Jesus give His life as a ransom? Matthew 20:28

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7. Because of Jesus' sacrifice for us, how many people have the opportunity to be saved? 2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4

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8. **Note:** Based on the previously mentioned scriptures, God wants the whole world to be saved. What God has predestined is not who will be saved and who will be lost, but He has a pre-designed plan by which everyone can be saved if they choose to follow Him.
 9. Let us now analyze another scripture that mentions predestination. Read Ephesians 1:4-5, 11. In verse 5, what has Jesus predestined us unto?

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10. What is Adam called in scripture? Luke 3:38

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11. **Note:** Adam was called the son of God but Adam sinned which separated him from his Father. Therefore, the human race had to be ransomed back from the Devil and be adopted back into God's family. The plan to save mankind had already existed from the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4-5; Revelation 13:8). This is what God predestined.

12. What will everyone person do who has the hope of being called a son of God? 1 John 3:1-3 (the answer is in verse 3)

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13. What will they choose not to commit through Jesus' power? 1 John 3:4

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14. Read Ephesians 1:5, 9, 11. Notice that God has put His plans in motion "according to the good pleasure of His will." What does God work in us to do according to His good pleasure? Philippians 2:13
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15. **Note:** Read Philippians 2:12 and notice that Paul would not tell us to work out our salvation if everyone was already predestined to be saved or lost.

16. What is God the Father's will? John 6:39; 2 Peter 3:9

17. Read John 6:40 and fill in the blanks. God the Father wills that everyone who sees the Son and _____ on Him may have _____:

18. Does God know all things past, present, & future? Isaiah 46:9, 10; Hebrews 4:13; Psalm 139:1-6

19. **Note:** Although God knows all things, His knowledge of the future doesn't cancel out our freedom of choice. Imagine a bystander on the sidewalk who is observing traffic. The bystander sees a little child run out into a busy intersection as a large truck drives directly into the child's path. Just because the bystander knows what will happen next, it doesn't mean he wills it to happen. There are many scriptures which show us that we have a choice in the matter of salvation (i.e. Joshua 24:15, Deuteronomy 30:19). Predestination indirectly teaches that the Lord chooses people to sin and be lost. It distorts God and His character who gave all to save us.

20. **Note:** Another term used in scripture which people believe is connected to the idea of Predestination is the "elect." Let us study this word and its variations in scripture.

21. What did God call the children of Israel in Bible times? Isaiah 45:4 _____

22. A surface reader might believe that this scripture means that God only wanted the lineage of Israel to be saved. Who do the Israelites trace their lineage back to? John 8:31, 33

23. How many nations were to be blessed by the nation of Israel, Abraham's descendants? Genesis 18:18; Genesis 22:18

24. **Note:** The Bible shows us clearly that Israel was to be God's chosen people to bless the nations of the earth and show them the ways of salvation (Deuteronomy 7:6). The Old Testament shows us examples of non-Israelites who received the truth and will be saved: Rahab and Ruth. Jesus also broke down the prejudice of the disciples by showing them that He came to save all people, not just the Jews (Syrophenician woman - Mark 7:25-30; Roman centurion - Matthew 8:5-10; Woman at the well - John 4:7-43). Therefore, God referring to Israel as His elect, does not prove that they were to be the only recipients of salvation.

25. Read 2 Peter 1:10. What does Peter tell us to make "sure"?

26. **Note:** The understanding of the words in 2 Peter 1:10, "make your calling and election sure," is similar to the understanding of the words by Paul in Philippians 2:12, "work out your own salvation." Peter tells us to make our calling and election sure because it means if we don't do this, we would lose our salvation. This means that "the elect" are not those who were chosen to be saved prior to birth, but rather, they are those who choose to forsake sin and accept Jesus, which grants them entrance into God's kingdom. Read 2 Peter 1:11.

Rebuttals

27. In John 13:2, 11 it says that Jesus knew who would betray him. Does this prove that Judas was chosen by God beforehand to be the betrayer of Jesus? **Answer:** The Scriptures in the Old Testament that show us that Jesus would be betrayed by His own friend did not have a name attached to it (Psalm 41:9). All of the twelve disciples had character defects and could have easily betrayed Jesus. James and John wanted to call fire down from heaven upon those who rejected Jesus, Thomas was a doubter, Peter denied Jesus three times, and they all argued over who would be the greatest! Yet, Jesus had all twelve disciples near him so that they could have equal opportunities to be saved. Jesus knew what Judas would ultimately choose, but He didn't choose that path for him. This is why Jesus did not shun Judas, because He was giving him every opportunity to be saved (Matthew 10:1-4; Luke 19:10). Likewise, Jesus is doing everything in His power today to save every person on earth if only they choose to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9).

28. Another scripture people use to justify predestination is that God hardened Pharaoh's heart (Exodus 9:12) and therefore, he had no choice in the matter. What is the meaning of this scripture? Exodus 8:32, 15; Exodus 9:34; John 3:19. **Answer:** Pharaoh was the one who hardened his heart by rejecting truth and light as it was revealed to him. God simply gave Pharaoh the test; it was Pharaoh's choice to harden his heart or to soften it and be converted.

29. **Note:** As we close, let us look at what God expects of us so that we can fulfill His will and be saved. Understand that the context of Matthew 22 is a parable teaching us about the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 22:1-2).

30. Matthew 22:14 tells us that “many are called but few are chosen.” Now, read Matthew 22:11. What did the king come in to do?
Answer: To see the guests. (Notice: God would not do this if everyone’s fate was predetermined). This shows us that there was an investigation or examination of everyone to see if they were prepared for the wedding. Likewise, it is with everyone seeking to enter heaven. God is examining us. He would not need to do that if everyone’s fate was predetermined.

a) What did the man at the wedding feast fail to do, which caused him not to be chosen or saved? Matthew 22:11, 12

31. What does the wedding garment represent? Revelation 19:8; 1 John 2:1

32. What word did the King use to address the man? Matthew 22:12 (Notice also that the man was speechless signifying that he knew the King’s choice of wedding attire and was without excuse).

33. What was the end result of the man who willingly rejected the wedding garment, a symbol of Jesus’ righteousness? Matthew 22:13-14

34. Meditate on the characteristics of righteousness that are needed by everyone who will choose to be saved. See 2 Peter 1:4-8. This is how we make our calling and election sure.
