

Predestination and Providence

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Distinctions Between Predestination and Providence

I. Verses where forms of the word, *predestinate*, appear

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did **predestinate** to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Rom 8:30 Moreover whom he did **predestinate**, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Eph 1:5 Having **predestinated** us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

Eph 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being **predestinated** according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

II. Two additional passages where the Greek word, *proorizo*, appears

Act 4:27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,

Act 4:28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

1Co 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

1Co 2:8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

II. A distinction between predestination and providence

A. Notice that *predestinate* pertains to the eternal destiny of a particular people

B. Providence pertains to the ever-presence of God in the lives of His people

C. Examples of distinction

1. Predestination always has to do with where God's child goes after death

Providence might have to do with where you go after church

You might be free to "do your own thing"

God might have reason to providentially intervene in your plans

2. Predestination (by definition) has nothing to do with what you ate for breakfast

Did God's providence determine what you ate for breakfast? Probably not.

But what if God knew your body desperately needed "Vitamin X2" in oats

3. Predestination (by definition) has nothing to do with you being late to work

Did providence put you behind the school bus and make you late? Maybe

Does providence cause you to be slothful and not get up in time? No

- Providence is not an excuse for our sins.
4. God in His predestination did not determine that I would tell that lie
 God in His providence did not determine that I would tell that lie
 In my sinfulness I chose to tell the lie
 God knew I would tell the lie--Yet God did not cause me to tell the lie
 God could have in His providence prevented me from telling the lie
 Yet, it is in not God's fault that I told the lie
 5. Did God predestinate World War II? No. (By definition)
 Did God in His providence cause World War II? No.
Jas 4:1 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?
 Did God in His providence allow World War II? How can it be any other way?
 Did God in His providence accomplish any purpose with World War II? Maybe
 Was God with His children during World War II? Of course.
 Why did all those mothers' sons die? Sin is the core cause of all that is bad.

III. Examples of providence

A. The providence of God for our daily needs

- Mat 6:25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?*
- Mat 6:26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?*
- Mat 6:27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?*
- Mat 6:28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:*
- Mat 6:29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.*
- Mat 6:30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?*
- Mat 6:31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?*
- Mat 6:32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.*
- Mat 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

B. The providence of God in our times of suffering

- 1Pe 1:6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:*
- 1Pe 1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*
- 1Pe 1:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:*
- Jas 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;*
- Jas 1:3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*
- Jas 1:4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*
- 2Co 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*
- 2Co 12:8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.*
- 2Co 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*
- 2Co 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*
- 1Co 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*
- Joh 14:18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.*

IV. Predestination in the context of Romans 8

- Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*
- Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

Rom 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Rom 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Rom 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Rom 8:33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

Rom 8:34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Rom 8:36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Rom 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Rom 8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Rom 8:39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

V. Predestination in the context of Ephesians 1

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Eph 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Eph 1:8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

Eph 1:9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

Eph 1:10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

Eph 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: