

## **Romans 9:17-21 – Illustration of Predestination**

TSK, GreekLexicon, Steele, Gaebelain, Clarke, Rienecker, Hendriksen, Vincent, Trapp, Poole, PNT, Godet, Family, Geneva, Eclectic, Henry, Calvin  
Reword some parts

Beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ: **God predestined some people to destruction** and **God predestined some people to salvation**.

**God is just when he destroys. God is compassionate (and just, as his justice was put on Jesus) when he saves.**

**This is clearly taught.**

But as a good teacher, Apostle Paul **illustrated what he taught about predestination** using a famous character in history: Pharaoh, king of Egypt.

He knew this illustration would make his teaching clearer. **Hear about this illustration of predestination today.**

Our headings are:

**God predestined Pharaoh's destruction**

**You must therefore accept predestination**

**Even if you reject predestination, it is still true**

Our goals are: **That you will praise God for electing you, and you will preach the Gospel so God will bring in the other elect.**

### **God predestined Pharaoh's destruction**

17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "**For this very purpose I have raised you up**, that I may **show My power in you**, and that **My name may be declared** in all the earth."

**1. God predestined to raise up Pharaoh and then destroy him to show God's great power to people everywhere.**

**This predestination was so certain, God told this to Pharaoh** – the king who thought he had all power – before it happened.

**Exodus 9:15** "Now if I had stretched out My hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, then you would have been cut off from the earth. 16 **But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.**

**God ordained him to be the most powerful king of the day**...though others put him as Pharaoh.

**God ordained his army to be strong**...though the soldiers trained hard.

**Then God ordained that he be destroyed**...and God did that through the prayer of Moses.

**2. God could have destroyed Pharaoh for his cruelty to the Jews much earlier, and God could have destroyed him in the 6 earlier plagues when he destroyed many other Egyptians, but God had a plan for Pharaoh: To spectacularly destroy him.**

God predestined his destruction would come after the 10<sup>th</sup> plague and **make it more dramatic** so he would be praised more!

God wanted to let people **see how wicked Pharaoh was to the Jews, how Pharaoh let his own people suffer to protect his power, and most of all, to let people see how he, Yahweh, controlled all things.**

This was **the unstoppable predestinating power of God**. Moses wrote:

Deuteronomy 6: 22 'and the LORD showed signs and wonders before our eyes, **great and severe, against Egypt, Pharaoh, and all his household.**

Deuteronomy 7: 18 "**you shall not be afraid of them**, but you shall **remember well what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt:** 19 "the **great trials which your eyes saw, the signs and the wonders, the mighty hand and the outstretched arm,** by which the LORD your God brought you out. So shall the LORD your God do to all the peoples of whom you are afraid.

18 Therefore **He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.**

**3. God showed his predestinating power when he hardened Pharaoh's heart (mentioned at least 5 X).**

Exodus 4:21 And the LORD said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders before Pharaoh which I have put in your hand. **But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go.**

**But what does it mean when Moses said God hardened Pharaoh's heart?** Does it mean God made Pharaoh sin? Absolutely not! God does not make anyone sin. God is holy.

**This statement simply means 2 things:**

**a. God left Pharaoh to his own will.** God did not stop him. When God "leaves" a man he gets hardened in his heart.

*Illustration: If woman leaves her husband for not keeping a job, and he starts drinking and stops taking care of his health, he might say, "My wife's leaving destroyed me," but did she really destroy him by leaving? No! He destroyed himself!*

**b. God judged Pharaoh** for his sins, and he used his suffering as an excuse to be hardened against God. People still do this to excuse their bad behavior.

*Illustration: "My grandmother smacked my hands when I played with matches, so I burn houses down now!"*

**Exodus 8:15** But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, **he hardened his heart** and did not heed them, as the LORD had said. 32 But Pharaoh **hardened his heart** at this time also; neither would he let the people go.

#### **4. Lessons-6:**

**a. You were elected to salvation in Jesus!** Yahweh predestined his Son to come and live and die for you and he predestined his Holy Spirit to regenerate you and seal you for eternity.

**All who were appointed to eternal life believed.** (Acts 13:48)

**John 6: 65** And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me **unless it has been granted to him by My Father.**"

**b. Those who are condemned, are condemned because they reject God's salvation.**

They don't go to hell because they are not predestined to salvation.

God is never the cause of man going to hell.

Men simply reject God's offer of salvation.

**c. When you see God's unstoppable electing power, praise him.** You **must praise** him. You will **want to praise** him!

You wouldn't have chosen him without his electing you.

**d. God is unstoppable in his destructive power. So don't fear that Bill C63 may criminalize Christian speech and threaten life in jail and \$70,000.00 fine for hurting other people's feelings with the truth.**

Prime Minister Trudeau and his cohorts will have to give an answer for this wickedness. He will not escape God's judgment.

Rejoice, God is in charge. (Psalm 76:10)

**e. Sometimes God leaves men to get into horrible sins for a long time.**

Stalin, Hitler, Mao, and Pol Pot killed millions before they died. (Israel was enslaved for 200 years.)

**The US government has protected the killers of over 60,000,000 babies** who could not defend themselves, using doctors and parents. This is the worst atrocity in human history.

**But God will show himself as the judge.** He sees what is going on.

He has raised these up to show the wretchedness of man apart from God.

**Don't panic if the wait is long!**

**f. The unstoppable predestinating will of God is the rule for righteousness.**

No one's doctrines must conflict with God's will. If God says it, accept it.

**Reason all argument from God's revealed will.** Don't make work-arounds to God's standard.

**You must therefore accept predestination**

19 You will say to me then, "**Why does He still find fault?** For who has resisted His will?" 20 But indeed, O man, **who are you to reply against God?** **Will the thing formed say to him who formed it,** "Why have you made me like this?"

**1. Since God is the one who ordained Pharaoh to be so rich and powerful and then destroy him, why did God find fault with what Pharaoh did?**

Stated another way: **Since no one can resist the will of God, and God predestined it to happen, why did God find fault in Pharaoh for enslaving God's people in such a harsh way?**

Or, **if God predestined some to go to hell, why does he still find fault with them?**

Answer that!

**2. Man doesn't understand: Man does not have the wisdom to judge God's actions.**

Man is arrogant when he does this. It is impudence of the highest sort.

**If God says he saves whomever he wills, and condemns whomever he wills, that should be the end of the argument.**

He is never unjust. **The man who goes to hell gets what he rightly deserves.**

**3. Don't ask: Man has no right to ask his Creator this question.**

Deuteronomy 29:29 "**The secret things belong to the LORD** our God, but those things **which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever**, that we may do all the words of this law.

You might want more information or reasoning, but there is no more!

**4. Lessons-5:**

**a. If God predestined you be drunk, and you then have an accident and hurt someone, why does God blame you for the accident?** Shouldn't God take the blame? No!

God works in your will in such a way that you, of your own free will, chose to drink and get drunk. How does this happen? I don't know and I must now want to know!

You have 100% of the blame.

**b. Don't ever blame God for you or someone else not being saved!**

God makes no one sin. He is holy. He cannot look at sin.

Praise him for his reprobating of wicked men! Sing the imprecatory Psalms.

**c. Be thankful God predestined you for election and salvation, and now bear fruits worthy of it.** (John 15:16) God could have left you behind, but he didn't.

**d. Be patient when things don't go your way.**

**You don't know why God does all he does.**

You must not judge his action **when your child dies**...when **you lose a relationship**...when **you are fired** from a job...when you **get cancer**...

Trust his word knowing he will do what is best for you.

**Isaiah 64:** But now, O LORD, **You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter;** And all we are the work of Your hand.

**e. Wait for heaven when you will understand more than you know now.**

This doesn't fit into your curious nature, but make it fit.

Vain curiosity will kill you.

**Even if you reject predestination, it is still true**

21 Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?

**1. When a potter makes his utensils, he takes the same clay to make ornate China or a chamber pot.**

He has that freedom, his right.

Similarly, though all have plunged themselves in sin, **God is free to elect** and save (with punishment put on Christ) or **he is free to condemn** and destroy (they take their own punishment).

Similarly, at creation, God, for his own glory and purpose, formed man from clay.

He had that freedom. He could have used something else. He could have given animals souls, but he didn't.

**2. The Scripture consistently taught man had to accept predestination – even if he didn't like it:**

**Isaiah 29:16** Surely you have things turned around! **Shall the potter be esteemed as the clay;** For shall the thing made say of him who made

it, "He did not make me"? **Or shall the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"?**

**Jeremiah 18: 6 "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?" says the LORD. "Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!**

Only the arrogant would tell God the rules God must follow. God follows his own rules.

### **3. Lessons-3:**

**a. If you are a Christian and reject God's predestination of salvation and condemnation, it's still the truth.**

You will live a life of **complaining and frustration** when things don't go the way you want. (Death, broken hearts, loss of jobs, etc.)

And worst of all, you will **rob the Father of his rightful praises.**

**b. If you accept God predestines salvation and condemnation, you will worship God, you will work for him, and in the end, you will gain what he ordained for you.**

Predestination is a comforting doctrine.

Don't reject God's comfort.

**c. If you aren't a Christian and reject predestination,** you will have to admit it on Judgment Day, but then it will be too late to ask for his salvation.

### **Conclusion:**

God predestines salvation and condemnation.

Man must accept this.

Predestination is still true, even if man rejects it.

So brothers and sisters in the Lord:

**1. If you don't like this doctrine, take it up with the one who gave it.**

I can only explain what is. I can't explain why God made everything the way he did.

**2. If you do believe this doctrine, let it make you live with comfort and confidence.**

**3. Let this doctrine make you work to bring in the elect who are still in their sins.**

God predestined his children to play their part in bringing in the lost.

Finally: **Do you want to face God's condemnation or do you want him to count Jesus' condemnation as yours?**

If you want Jesus's condemnation to be counted as yours, ask God today. He took all the sins of his children when he died on the cross.