

The Purpose of God in Salvation Pt 2

Predestination

Romans 8:28–30

Romans 8:28–30 (NKJV)

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Introduction

Two times in the text, we see the word, “predestined”.

This is one of the most amazing words in all of Scripture. It has been loved and cherished by a multitude of Christians and Biblical Scholars throughout church history. Among individual words studied in Scripture, predestination ranks as one of

the highest. Entire books have been written just on this subject alone.

I think of the classic work “The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination” by Loraine Boettner.

But I cannot think of another word that is hated and despised and rejected and avoided as much as the word “predestined”

Churches have split over it, Pastors have avoided it. Literature has been published to redefine it.

God is allowed to be God everywhere but here.

One author wrote,”

“It is not predestination in itself which is an offense to man, but predestination by God”

(The History and Theology of Calvinism, Curt Daniel pg. 202)

So as result, man has made every attempt to redefine the Biblical use of Predestination, to insure that ultimately man is in control and not God,

As one Sikh who thought he was profound when he wrote

“Man predestines God as much as God predestines man.”

(The History and Theology of Calvinism, Curt Daniel pg. 202)

Arminianism, in a similar way approaches this idea of predestination by making it contingent upon man and his choices rather than God.

(The History and Theology of Calvinism, Curt Daniel pg. 202)

Ever since the Reformation , there has been a gradual shift from the historic, confessional and Biblical understanding of Predestination.

Arminianism and its man centered approach to soteriology has saturated and permeated much of the American Evangelical church.

So much so, that when you introduce the Biblical view of predestination, there is an immediate recoil and hostility, as if God is no longer loving and is a tyrant hoping to kill as many as He can.

This is typical of a man centered Theology that starts with man at the center of the universe and his needs rather than God and His purposes at the center.

The fruit of this has been disastrous for the church. Its methods of evangelism from alter calls, to watering down and sugar coating the gospel message has produced a huge number of false converts to Christianity.

Just consider today the typical church and its approach to worship. The underlying motivation of why things are done they way they are is how it will be received by the audience. Worship has become theater. It is about the performance rather than the participants in the pew. Everything from the sermon, to the music, the the lighting, even to the dress code is adopted to make men feel welcome and

comfortable. God is a spectator in worship, not the object of worship.

God is only at the center in theory but in practice it is very obvious man is at the center.

This is not the cause of wrong view of God and doctrines like predestination, rather it is the fruit of a wrong view of God and predestination.

A correct understanding of Predestination is essential our understand of God and man and the Bible. Without it we are left with man centered universe run by finite beings with finite knowledge and wisdom controlled by sin.

As one author put it

“The alternative to sovereign divine predestination is human tyranny... if we deny the sovereignty, predestination and law of God, we are left with only chance and the cruelty of man.

Man needs meaning, he noted, and will seek it in an anti-God tyranny such as absolute communism”

(Rousas J. Rushdoony, Salvation and Godly Rule; The History and Theology of Calvinism, Curt Daniel pg. 202)

This might well shed light on the current drive toward Marxism and Communism in America.

Men and women and in some cases churches have divorced themselves from the Biblical God.

Meaning and purpose are gone, in a universe created by meaningless man.

So with that said. What is a Biblical definition of Predestination?

First, it needs to be pointed out, that the Bible does not define the word for us, per say. It just states it, as a matter of fact.

It is as if this is axiomatic (self evident truth)

If God is God, and He is Lord and King in His Universe that He created out of nothing, then it is assumed that you would know that he would have absolute control of what He created and is Lord over.

The opposite of this is that God is in fact not God. If he cannot control what He created. Then what He created becomes God.

But we can discern a proper meaning of the word from the lexical definitions of the word and also by

Analogia Scriptura and our understand of Theology Proper (the character of God)

Word of Caution:

We are looking into the deep counsels of God. We are finite looking at the infinite. We are limited, severely limited looking into the unfathomable, limitless mind of God.

We cannot and should not go beyond the pages of Scripture.

Calvin often warned against undue prying into predestination.

He wrote on one occasion, "one should not inquire to curiously into it if one does not want to be overwhelmed by glory".

(The History and Theology of Calvinism, Curt Daniel pg. 201)

On another occasion he cautioned us of improper curiosity, for Gods wise counsel in predestination "surpasses our brains, for the door has been close to us on that subject, to enter there by force would be sacrilege which would not go unpunished".

The Puritans would say "where God has no lips we should have no ears".

It was reported that Luther said that before creation God was climbing a tree to find a strong branch to beat over the heads of fools who asked what God was doing before he made the world.

(The History and Theology of Calvinism, Curt Daniel pg. 201)

The Westminster Confession of Faith wisely cautions us, "the doctrine of this high mystery of predestination is to be handled with special prudence and care"(3:8)

Deuteronomy 29:29(NKJV)

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.

So what is revealed we can know and we can study and we can see the Glory of God in this great truth of Predestination.

predestined

This ...word is used in the Gk. Bible only 6 times in the NT in the sense “to foreordain,” “to predestinate.” Since God is eternal and has ordained everything before time, προορίζειν is a stronger form of ὀρίζειν

Schmidt, K. L. (1964–). ὀρίζω. ἀφορίζω. ἀποδιορίζω. προορίζω. G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich (Eds.), *Theological dictionary of the New Testament* (electronic ed., Vol. 5, p. 456). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

proorizó: to predetermine, foreordain

Original Word: προορίζω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: proorizó

Phonetic Spelling: (pro-or-id'-zo)

Definition: to predetermine, foreordain

Usage: I foreordain, predetermine, mark out beforehand.

4309 proorízō (from **4253** /pró, "before" and **3724** /horízō, "establish boundaries, limits") –

properly, pre-horizon, pre-determine limits (boundaries) predestine.

[4309 (proorízō) occurs six times in the NT (eight in the writings of Paul). Since the root (3724 /horízō) already means "establish boundaries," the added prefix (pro, "before") makes 4309 (proorízō) "to pre-establish boundaries," i.e. before creation.]

Literal Standard Version

because whom He foreknew, **He also foreordained,** conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be firstborn among many brothers;

Young's Literal Translation

because whom He did foreknow, **He also did fore-appoint, conformed to the image of His Son,** that he might be first-born among many brethren;

Smith's Literal Translation

For whom he before knew, **he also before determined of the form of the image of his Son,** for him to be first born in many brethren.

Ephesians 1:5 (NKJV)

⁵ **having predestined us to adoption** as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Ephesians 1:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, **being predestined according to the purpose of Him** who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

1 Corinthians 2:7 (NKJV)

⁷ But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which **God ordained before the ages for our glory**,

Acts 4:27–28 (NKJV)

²⁷ “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and **Your purpose determined before** to be done.

In these verses, we learn that Predestination affects more than just salvation, but also all the other

facets fo salvation, and the events that lead to salvation.

Romans 8 says we are predestined to be conformed to the image of Christ, which is the ultimate goal of Salvation.

Ephesians 1 says we are predestined to be adopted, that is our being brought into the family of God.

And Ephesians says we are predestined unto an inheritance in Christ.

Then in Acts 4, we are told that all the events and choices of men where predestined to lead to the fulfillment of Salvation in Christ Death.

So...

Being Adopted.

Given an Inheritance in Christ

Being conformed to the image fo Christ

and

all the individuals choices that get us to there are predestined by God.

“Paul is saying that God is the author of our salvation, and that from beginning to end. We are not to think that God can take action only when we graciously give him permission. Paul is saying that

God initiates the whole process. As Barrett puts it: “The history and personal make-up of the Church are not due to chance or to arbitrary human choices, but represent the working out of God’s plan....”

Morris, L. (1988). *The Epistle to the Romans* (p. 332). Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press.

1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith

CHAPTER 3; OF GOD’S DECREE

Paragraph 1.

God hath decreed in himself, from all eternity, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely and unchangeably, all things, whatsoever comes to pass;¹ yet so as thereby is God neither the author of sin nor hath fellowship with any therein;² nor is violence offered to the will of the creature, nor yet is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established;

¹ Isa. 46:10; Eph. 1:11; Heb. 6:17; Rom. 9:15,18

² James 1:13; 1 John 1:5

³ Acts 4:27,28; John 19:11

⁴ Num. 23:19; Eph. 1:3-5

Predestination is absolute and definite, not contingent or merely possible. It is unfrustratable, unstoppable, and invincible.

Thomas Vincent the Puritan commented; nothing can frustrate Gods appointment; God, being so infinite in wisdom does not appoint anything about which there shall be any reason to alter His determination; God being so infinite in power, nothing can hinder the efficacy of what he has determined shall be done.

(The History and Theology of Calvinism, Curt Daniel pg. 199)

So God is the uncaused Cause. Everything is and has purpose because of God.

Ezekiel 14:23 (NKJV)

²³... you shall know that I have done nothing without cause that I have done in it," says the Lord God.

If it is, then God predetermined it to be so.

President Franklin D Roosevelt once said, "in politics, nothing happens by accident. If it happens, you can bet it was planned that way. "

And so it is with God,

... this is not, the casting of lots, or one of many options. It's not random or "Eeny, meeny, miny, moe".

There is Purpose here, there is reason here, there is counsel here, there is wisdom here.

So what determined God's predetermination
Or to say it another way.

What was it that caused God to do what He did
and to predetermine it to be this way.

Why not another way.

Why the creation of angels and men and
allowance of the fall of both into sin and evil?

Why all the sin, and evil and death and decay?

Why the fall and the condemnation of man?

Why the sending of the God man Christ to die at
the hands of evil men?

Why all the drama of 6000 years of men hating
God and worshiping false gods?

Why the salvation of an elect people by grace and
mercy?

Why the return of Christ in Glory to rapture His
saints and judge the nations?

Why a new Heavens and new earth?

Why not just have it with no sin, no evil, no death.?
No need to send Jesus to Die

Why not just create it perfect to start with and
leave it that way.?

You use less material that way.
and no one goes to Hell.

All of this boils down to 4 words

“The Glory of God”

That is what everything is created for. That is what everything exist for.

Psm 19 — the heavens declare the glory of God

Romans 1 that men refuse to give Him glory

Romans 9 says that all, saved and lost are created for the glory of God.

This amazing plan was predetermined to give God the most Glory

Had creation always been perfect and sinless, much of character of God would never displayed there would have been no need for

Justice

Mercy

Grace

Long-suffering

Patience

Love of God — for enemies and sinners

etc.

So, again, what was the cause of God concluding that this was the best way to do it to get the most Glory to His Name.

Ephesians 1:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the **counsel** of His will,

boulé: counsel

Original Word: βουλή, ἡς, ἡ

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Transliteration: boulé

Phonetic Spelling: (boo-lay')

Definition: counsel

Usage: counsel, deliberate wisdom, decree.

1012 boulé – properly, a resolved plan, used particularly of the immutable aspect of God's plan – purposefully arranging all physical circumstances, which guarantees every scene of life works to His eternal purpose.

This level of God's plan (1012 /boulé) demonstrates He is the Lord of history, i.e. always in charge!

[1012 (boulé) is more than God's immutable plan of physical circumstances. It always also includes the Lord's purpose in them – and hence arranging all the physical scenes of history before creation (Ps 139:16; Jn 1:3).]

βουλή denotes “deliberation” and “taking counsel” in all its stages and effects up to “resolve” and “decree.”

Schrenk, G. (1964–). [βούλομαι](#), [βουλή](#), [βούλημα](#). G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich (Eds.), *Theological dictionary of the New Testament* (electronic ed., Vol. 1, p. 633). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

This is an echo of

Isaiah 46:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning,
And from ancient times *things* that are not *yet*
done,
Saying, ‘My counsel shall stand,
And I will do all My pleasure,’

Acts 2:23 (NKJV)

²³ Him, being delivered by the determined **purpose**
and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by
lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

Acts 4:27–28 (NKJV)

²⁷ “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus,
whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate,
with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were

gathered together ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your **purpose** determined before to be done.

Acts 20:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole **counsel** of God.

Hebrews 6:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His **counsel**, confirmed *it* by an oath,

βουλή denotes “deliberation” and “taking counsel” in all its stages and effects up to “resolve” and “decree.”

Schrenk, G. (1964–). [βούλομαι](#), [βουλή](#), [βούλημα](#). G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich (Eds.), *Theological dictionary of the New Testament* (electronic ed., Vol. 1, p. 633). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

Lesson:

I. The Promise

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good

II. The Participants

v.28 to those who love God, to those who are the called

III. The Purpose

The Big question that has been asked over over again by humanity throughout the ages is... WHY?

Why are we here?

Why is there something and not nothing?

Why do we exist and where are we going?

What is the purpose of all of this.

This passage answers that for Believers.

All the Universities, with its professors and philosophers, with endless hours to speculate and pontificate, cannot come up with this conclusion apart from the special revelation of Holy Writ.

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, to be conformed to the image of His Son these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

The great and stupendous Purpose of God is that He would select out of the mass of justly condemned sinners a large group of men women and children to save and conform to the image of Jesus Christ and to be a recipients of God's love, grace and mercy at the expense of justice and wrath being poured out on his own Son.

Paul speaks of this in Ephesians 1

Ephesians 1:3–12 (NKJV)

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,

that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, ⁹ having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, ¹⁰ that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. ¹¹ In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

So in our text the ones that are participant in this Promise and Purpose are identified.

As the ones who are loving God

These are
the Foreknown
the Predestined
the Called.

Romans 8:28–30 (NKJV)

²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

1. **The Foreknown**— this is a beautiful term referring to the elect of God. The chosen of God. As we saw last time, this refers to a preset love. A predetermined intimate relationship with his elect.

This does not refer to God looking down time and seeing what men will do in response to the gospel and choosing them if they choose Him.

This is not foreseen faith to determine Gods elective purpose.

As we noted, God does not and has not learned anything. All has been predetermined and planned.

He is the one who ordains all things and knows all things because He ordains all things and controls all things.

And as we noted, if it did mean that God looked ahead to see what men would do, He would only see men hating God, rejecting Christ, suppressing the truth, not coming to the light lest there evil deeds be made known.

God grants faith, repentance and Confession.

The next phrase is **Romans 8:28–30** (NKJV)
[29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined](#)
[predestined](#)

Pre-determined before hand

29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

conformed

summorphos: similar, conformed to

Original Word: σύμμορφος, ον

Part of Speech: Adjective

Transliteration: summorphos

Phonetic Spelling: (soom-mor-fos')

Definition: to conform to

Usage: similar, conformed to.

Cognate: 4832 σύμμορφος – properly, conformed, by sharing the same inner essence-identity (form); showing similar behavior from having the same essential nature (used in Phil 3:10; this adjectival form also occurs in Ro 8:29 in many texts). See 4833 (symmorpho

58.5 σύμμορφος, ον: pertaining to that which has a similar form or nature—‘similar in form, of the same form.’

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 584). New York: United Bible Societies.

Philippians 3:20–21 (NKJV)

²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,
²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be **conformed** to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the **image** of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

image

likeness n. — similarity in appearance, character, or nature between persons or things.

eikón: an image, i.e. lit. statue, fig. representation

Original Word: εἰκών, ὄνομα, ἡ

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Transliteration: eikón

Phonetic Spelling: (i-kone')

Definition: an image, statue, representation

Usage: an image, likeness, bust.

1504 eikón (from 1503 /eíkō, "be like") – properly, "mirror-like representation," referring to what is very close in resemblance (like a "high-definition" projection, as defined by the context). Image (1504 /eikón) then exactly reflects its source (what it directly corresponds to). For example, Christ is the very image (1504 /eikón, supreme expression) of the Godhead (see 2 Cor 4:4; Col 1:15).

"1504 (eikón) assumes a prototype, of which it not merely resembles, but from which it is drawn" (R. Trench). 1504 (eikón) then is more than a "shadow"; rather it is a replication (F. F. Bruce, Hebrews, 226; see also Lightfoot at Col 3:10 and 2:21).

We will be in the likeness him in the since of sanctification, purity, holiness.

Ephesians 1:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Predestination here refers to God predetermining to make us like Christ.

I have heard some say that that is all it has to do with and nothing to do with salvation. But that is wrong on many levels

1. The whole process of salvation is for the purpose of making one like Christ.

2. The work of regeneration starts the whole process. You cannot have faith, and repent of sin and confess Jesus as Lord unless you have been made alive.

3. The only ones that will be conformed to the image of Christ are the ones that are foreknown.

And these are the ones that God set his love on before they were born. This is inherently Gods election.

To say that predestination has nothing to do with Salvation and only sanctification misses the point of Romans 8:28-30

It is the the ones that are preknown that are predestined. The fact that they are preknown is what in-fact predestined them to be like Christ.

With that said, I do find it important to emphasize that this does not say that we are predestined to stay out of Hell, although that is true by default.

It does not say that we are predestined to be forgiven of our sin, although that is true by default

Rather the emphasis is placed on sanctification., being made like Christ in Holiness

This also places emphasis that there is no disconnect of justification from Sanctification.

Those who are Justified will be Sanctified.

Salvation from the penalty of sin without salvation from the power of sin is foreign to the Bible.

John 17:16–17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

John 17:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

1 Corinthians 15:47–49 (NKJV)

⁴⁷ The first man *was* of the earth, *made* of dust; the second Man *is* the Lord from heaven. ⁴⁸ As *was* the *man* of dust, so also *are* those *who are made* of dust; and as *is* the heavenly *Man*, so also *are* those *who are* heavenly. ⁴⁹ And as we have borne the image of the *man* of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *Man*.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

1 John 3:2–3 (NKJV)

² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Let me briefly remind you of why Paul is referring to Predestination in the with the intended goal to make us like Christ.

Remember
He said

Romans 8:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.

Romans 8:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Romans 8:22–23 (NKJV)

²² For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. ²³ Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

Romans 8:28–29 (NKJV)

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ **For** whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

hoti: that, because

Original Word: ὅτι

Part of Speech: Conjunction

Transliteration: hoti

Phonetic Spelling: (hot'-ee)

Definition: that, because

Usage: that, since, because; may introduce direct discourse.

29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son,

that He might be the
firstborn among many brethren.

[Smith's Literal Translation](#)

For whom he before knew, he also before determined of the form of the image of his Son, for him to be first born in many brethren.

prototokos: first-born

Original Word: ΠΡΩΤΌΤΟΚΟΣ, ΟΥ

Part of Speech: Adjective

Transliteration: prototokos

Phonetic Spelling: (pro-tot-ok'-os)

Definition: first-born

Usage: first-born, eldest.

4416 prōtōtokos (from 4413 /prōtos, "first, pre-eminent" and 5088 /tiktō, "bring forth") – properly, first in time (Mt 1:25; Lk 2:7); hence, pre-eminent (Col 1:15; Rev 1:5).

4416 /prōtōtokos ("firstly") specifically refers to Christ as the first to experience glorification, i.e. at His resurrection (see Heb 12:23; Rev 1:5). For this (and countless other reasons) Jesus is "preeminent" (4416 /prōtōtokos) – the unequivocal Sovereign over all creation (Col 1:16).

[4416 (prōtōtokos) refers to "the first among others (who follow)" – as with the preeminent, glorified Christ, the eternal Logos who possesses self-existent life (Jn 5:26).]

Colossians 1:15–18 (NKJV)

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. ¹⁸ And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Hebrews 1:5–6 (NKJV)

⁵ For to which of the angels did He ever say:

*“You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You”?*

And again:

*“I will be to Him a Father,
And He shall be to Me a Son”?*

⁶ But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says:

“Let all the angels of God worship Him.”

Revelation 1:5 (NKJV)

⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.

To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son,
that He might be the

firstborn **among many brethren.**

Matthew 12:50 (NKJV)

⁵⁰ **For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.”**

Matthew 25:40 (NKJV)

⁴⁰ **And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.’**

“It is God’s plan that his people become like his Son, not that they should muddle along in a modest respectability. We should be in no doubt as to the high standard that Paul sets for Christian people. We have been admitted to the heavenly family; we are *brothers* in that family and we call God “Father”. We are accordingly to live as members of the family, and that means being made like our elder Brother. This is all part of God’s predestination; he predestined us not only to be released from an unpleasant predicament, but in order that we might become like his Son.”

Morris, L. (1988). [The Epistle to the Romans](#) (p. 333). Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press.