

Answers!

Lesson #12

Question #23:

What's the difference between predestination and foreknowledge?

Answer:

Predestination is God - in time present - stating what *will* happen.

Foreknowledge is God - in eternity future - stating what *already* happened.

Definitions:

Predestination: to decide beforehand, to foreordain, to appoint.

Foreknowledge: a forecast of likely course, to declare the likely outcome of a situation.

(gk. *prognosis*: *pro* = before, *gnosis* = to know)

Explanation:

Jesus is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. He has already been to the end, and knows the outcome. That is why His prophecies are all accurate - He already knows what will happen. Jesus knows who will get saved, but that doesn't mean he predestinates it.

For example, if you watch the replay of a football game, you can announce what will happen with every player, yet not affect their free will. If you say, "The kicker is going to miss the field goal," it is because you have already seen it happen, not because you caused it. We may have foreknowledge of events, but that does not mean we can predestinate anything.

Further Explanation:

Predestination is God living with us - in present time - and determining unchangeable future events. Here are three predestined facts, according to the Scriptures:

1. Those who accept Christ as Saviour will eventually be conformed to the image of God's Son - **Romans 8:29**
2. Those who have accepted Christ as Saviour will be adopted by Jesus Christ to Himself - **Ephesians 1:5**
3. Those who have accepted Christ as Saviour obtain an inheritance - **Ephesians 1:11; Colossians 1:12; 3:24; 1 Peter 1:4**

Note: we are elected (chosen) according to foreknowledge, not predestination - **1 Peter 1:2**

Further Notes:

Answers!

Lesson #12

Question #24: **Why is there suffering?**

Answer: **Because of Satan, selfishness, and sin.**

Key verses:

Genesis 3:1-6, "Now the serpent [*Satan*] was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"

"And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

"And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise [*selfishness*] she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. [*sin*]"

Explanation:

Satan tempted Eve to be selfish. Eve yielded to the temptation, disobeyed God's law, and sinned. She shared with her husband Adam, and he sinned as well. God then pronounced that the wages of their sin would be death and suffering. Read **Genesis 3:14-19**.

The curse of suffering was put on Satan, the woman, the man, and the earth. This curse compounds as mankind continues to sin and Satan continues to deceive.

When God created everything, He created a perfect paradise. Do not blame God for the suffering that Satan, selfishness, and sin have brought on the earth.

Further Notes:
