

Mankind Was Predestined To Live Eternally With God

'Whom God foreknew, He predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son Jesus, so He might be the Firstborn among many brothers (and sisters). He called those whom He predestined. Whom He called He also justified. Whom He justified He also glorified' (Romans 8:29 & 30).

'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus our Messiah Who has blessed us in Jesus with every Spiritual blessing in the heavenly realm. In His love God chose us in Jesus before the foundation of the world so we would be holy, consecrated, set apart and without blame in His sight, having predestined us for adoption as His own children through Jesus our Messiah, according to the good pleasure of His desire and to the praise of the glory of His grace and mercy, which He freely bestowed favour on us in the Beloved. In Him we have our redemption and salvation through His blood, the forgiveness of our sins according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished on us in all wisdom and understanding, making known to us the mystery of His will and plans for mankind, His purpose for our salvation according to His good pleasure which God purposed through the sacrifice of Jesus. God planned for the fullness of the times, the appropriate time, to unify all things through Jesus in the heavens and on the earth. In Him we were assigned an inheritance, having been foreordained according to the purpose of God Who works all things in agreement with the counsel and design of His will to bring the end result so we who first put our hope in Jesus have been destined and appointed to live for the praise of His glory! Having heard the Word of the Truth, the Gospel of your salvation, in Whom having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, Who is a pledge of our inheritance, anticipating the full redemption of God's own possession to the praise of His glory' (Ephesians 1:3 to 14).

When God first created Adam and Eve, the plan was for God to enjoy their company, their children, their achievements and His overall creation forever. Sin and death were never part of God's original plan. Mankind was predestined to live with God as His children for eternity, since before the foundation of the world. God also planned for us to live with angels, seraphim and cherubim forever! Mankind was just another of God's intelligent created beings, created for His enjoyment and pleasure. Before God created anything, He had already decided to create humans in His image and in His form, His shape and His likeness, and we are the only beings created in the likeness of God. God has created many things but only mankind was created in His image. God has a head, arms, legs, feet, hands, eyes, ears, all in the same places we have them because we were made in His image and we are just like Him. God said, "Let Us make mankind in Our image after Our likeness" ... so God created mankind in His own image. In God's image He created mankind, male and female He created them" (Genesis 1:26 & 27).

When we read this decision made by God we can see it was written in plural form. "Let us, Our image, Our likeness." Who were the others mentioned in these verses? They were God the Father, Jesus long before He came to earth, the Holy Spirit and the Spirit of Wisdom. 'In God's image He created mankind' (Genesis 1:27). 'Jesus His Son is the radiance of His glory, the very image of His substance' (Hebrews 1:3). 'Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation. In Jesus all things were created, in the heavens and on the earth, things visible and things invisible ... all things have been created through Jesus and for Him. Jesus existed before all things and in Him all things are held together' (Colossians 1:15 to 17). 'The Holy Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the oceans' (Genesis 1:2). 'By Wisdom God founded the earth. By understanding He established the heavens' (Proverbs 3:19). 'God formed Me (the Spirit of Wisdom) in the beginning of His works, before His deeds of ancient times. I was appointed from everlasting, from the beginning, before the earth existed. Before there were deep oceans, before there were springs and fountains brimming with water, I was brought forth. Before the hills and mountains were settled in place, I was brought forth and before God made the fields, the land and before He made the first grains of dust. When God established the heavens (universe etc), I (Wisdom) was there. When He set a circle on the surface of the oceans and stretched out the sky over it, when He established the clouds above, when the springs of the seas became strong, when He gave to the sea its boundaries and limits so the waters should not overstep his commandment. When He marked out the foundations of the earth, I (Wisdom) was the craftsman by His side. I was His delight day by day, always rejoicing before Him and rejoicing in His whole inhabited world. My delight was with the sons of men (mankind)' (Proverbs 8:22 to 30). Notice, the delight of the Spirit of Wisdom was with humanity.

Angels are very similar to humans to look at but they are far more intelligent and powerful. Some people have spoken to angels without knowing they were talking to, and sharing meals with angels, so they are very much like us. 'Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers for in doing so, some people have entertained angels without knowing it' (Hebrews 13:2). Cherubim and seraphim are two different kinds of created beings, they are powerful and very intelligent but they are entirely different. For example, some seraphim have four faces and wheels instead of legs (Ezekiel 1:15 & 16). All of these four various creations were destined to live with God forever. Angels, cherubim and seraphim have their residence in heaven, which is vast, endless and

limitless. Humanity was placed on earth, which is round and limited. Angels can appear and disappear at will. Humans cannot. Every person who has ever been born on this earth was designed to have an eternal relationship with God our Creator, but many will be separated from God for eternity because of their choice not to commit themselves to Him during their lifetime. Some people openly refuse to acknowledge Him. It is very sad to know, millions of people who were all predestined to enjoy a relationship with our loving Creator will be rejected by Him on Judgement Day because of their own foolish disobedience and rebellion.

Some church leaders believe the 'predestination theory' means God chooses only whom He wants in heaven and discards the rest of humanity but that is wrong and is opposite to what the Scriptures say. God wants every person on earth to repent, reach out to Him and form a strong, lasting relationship with Him. All we have to do is reach out to Him to find Him. It is not a forced relationship because in Revelation Jesus said, 'whoever desires'. Here are two Scriptures to prove the 'predestination theory' is wrong. 'God made from one blood every nation of mankind to dwell on the surface of the earth, having determined appointed seasons and the boundaries of their dwellings so they should seek the Lord, if perhaps they might reach out for Him and find Him, although He is not far from each one of us. For in Him we live and move and have our being. As some of your own (Jewish) poets have said, 'For we are His offspring.' Being the offspring of God, we ought not to think His Divine Nature is like gold, silver or stone, engraved by art and design of man. The times of ignorance (and idolatry) God overlooked but now (since Jesus came) He commands all people everywhere (on earth) to repent' (Acts 17:26 to 30). 'The Holy Spirit and the Bride (of Jesus, that is all genuine believers) say, "Come!" Those who hear (the Gospel) let them say, "Come!" Those who are thirsty (for God) let them come. Those who desire let them take the water of life freely' (Revelation 22:17). Through Jesus, God made a way of salvation but it is up to us as individuals to accept or reject His gift of salvation.

There is one interesting question we have not been able to answer, which is, if there was never any sin and death and if humans and animals continued to breed and multiply in vast numbers and cover the earth as God told them to, remembering some of these animals were massive mammoths and dinosaurs, in time the earth would have run out of living space and food. What would God have done about that scenario? It is possible some people could have been taken to heaven to make more room on earth. Two examples of this possibility is the way Enoch and Elijah went to heaven without dying. 'Enoch walked with God and suddenly he was not (on earth) because God took him' (Genesis 5:24). 'Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven' (2 Kings 2:11). Of course this is only speculation and we have no Scriptural basis of what God would have really done. Whatever God's choice was, it would have been perfect and exciting. Sadly we will never know the answer because this earth has been so corrupted by sin and death, God has said He will destroy it with fire. This world and the universe were created absolutely perfect but mankind has ruined it all. Governments and wealthy individuals have even reached up and ruined outer space, which is currently filled with space junk. The entire universe will be burned up along with the earth and the last of the ungodly people who are on earth at that time. See what the Bible says about this.

'Know this first, in the last days (in our day) mockers will come walking after their own lusts and saying, "Where is the promise of His (second) coming? From the day the forefathers died, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." They (the unbelievers and mockers) wilfully forget, there were heavens from of old (before time) and the earth formed out of water and amid water, by the (spoken) Word of God. The (ancient) world that then was overflowed with water (and everything on earth) perished. (Note, these verses are referring to Noah's flood.) But the heavens that are here now, and the earth, by the same Word have been stored up for fire, being reserved against the Day of Judgment and destruction of ungodly people. Do not forget this one thing beloved, one day with the Lord is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow concerning His promise (to return to earth) as some count slowness, but is patient with us, not wishing anyone should perish (go to a lost eternity) but all should come to repentance (and salvation of their souls). The Day (appearing) of the Lord will come as (suddenly) as a thief in the night. The heavens will pass away with a great noise and the elements (entire universe) will be dissolved with fervent heat. The earth and the works in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed like this, what kind of people ought you to be in holy living and Godliness, looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the Day of God, which will cause the burning heavens to be dissolved and the elements (universe) will melt with fervent heat? But, according to His promise, we look for the new heavens and a new earth in which (only) righteousness dwells. Therefore beloved, seeing that you look for these things, be diligent to be found in peace without blemish and blameless in His sight' (2 Peter 3:3 to 14). This passage of Scripture confirms God's greatest desire is for all people to repent and be saved then live with Him forever. That was to be our destiny. That is why we were created.

God promised He would never again destroy the earth with a flood. God said, "I have set My rainbow in the cloud and it will be for a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth. It will happen, when I bring a cloud over the earth the rainbow will be seen in the cloud and I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters will no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.

The rainbow will be in the cloud. I will look at it so I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh on the earth" (Genesis 9:13 to 16). But because of ongoing sin and disobedience, God said He will burn this heaven and earth with fire and He will create a completely new earth and a new heaven where only righteousness will be. There will never be any sin on the new earth. "Behold, I create the new heavens and a new earth and the former things will not be remembered nor come into mind" (Isaiah 65:17). "As the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, will remain before Me" (Isaiah 66:22). "I (Apostle John) saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth have passed away (been destroyed by fire) and the sea is no more. I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, made ready like a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice out of heaven saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with people and He will dwell with them and they will be His people and God Himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away from them every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. There will be no mourning, no crying nor pain any more. The first things (that happened on earth) have passed away" (Revelation 21:1 to 4).

Although every person on earth has been predestined to have a relationship with God, not every person will be able to enter the newly created earth. Every adult on earth can choose to accept or reject God's way of salvation and that is through accepting the reality of the blood and cross of Jesus and His miraculous resurrection. People who accept God and love Him, serve Him, obey Him and worship Him will be granted permission to enter heaven. Everyone who walks with God and is obedient to Him and who have accepted Jesus as their Saviour will be blessed with eternal life. Every person who chooses to reject God, mock Him, blaspheme, use His name as an obscenity and live a life of disobedience may well be rejected for eternity. God has called many individuals but few are chosen to enter eternity with Him (Matthew 22:14) because of their own disobedience. Jesus said, "The righteous will enter into eternal life" (Matthew 25:46). Sadly, all those who refuse to accept Him, all those who reject Him, all those who live in disobedience will be lost for eternity. Jesus said, "Depart from Me you cursed, into the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels ... These (people) will go away into eternal punishment" (Matthew 25:41 & 46). 'There is no one like God, Who rides on the heavens for your help and in His excellency on the skies. The eternal God is your dwelling place. Underneath you are His everlasting arms' (Deuteronomy 33:26 & 27).

Amen and God bless you.

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