

March 22, 2020

“Look to the Future:
Welcome to a New World”

“A Future Plan - Predestination” Core 24

“For many are called, but few are chosen.” *Matthew 22:14*

A. God has a plan for each of us....

“You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in Your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.” *Psalm 139:16*

1. God not only knows us; He plans for our future.

“‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ says the LORD. ‘They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.’” *Jeremiah 29:11*

2. God loves you and chose you before Creation!

“Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes.” *Ephesians 1:4*

3. God knew you, chose you, and planned for your spiritual development.

“God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and His Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed Him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ.” *1 Peter 1:2a*

4. God knew us in advance and planned to use everything that comes into our lives to become like Jesus!

“For God knew His people in advance, and He chose them to become like His Son, so that His Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.” *Romans 8:29*

B. God knows...

“Grace and peace to you from the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come.” *Revelation 1:4b*

1. God is in our past, our present, and our future and He never changes!

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” *Hebrews 13:8*

2. God’s time is different than our time.

“But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day.”

2 Peter 3:8

3. God knows everything!

“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before His eyes, and He is the one to whom we are accountable.” *Hebrews 4:13*

4. God knows every detail and every action of our lives.

“But some of you do not believe Me.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning which ones didn’t believe, and He knew who would betray Him.)” *John 6:64*

C. Predestined...

1. The plan of our salvation in Jesus was predestined before the world began!

“It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. God chose Him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days He has been revealed for your sake.

Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because He raised Christ from the dead and gave Him great glory.” *1 Peter 1:19-21*

2. The plan was for each one of us from the very beginning.

“As for us, we can’t help but thank God for you, dear brothers and sisters loved by the Lord. We are always thankful that God chose you to be among the first to experience salvation—a salvation that came through the Spirit who makes you holy and through your belief in the truth.” *2 Thessalonians 2:13*

3. The plan was for each of us personally, starting with the Jews.

“And this is the plan: At the right time He will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for He chose us in advance, and He makes everything work out according to His plan. God’s purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God.” *Ephesians 1:10-12*

4. The plan was for each one of us and God is the one who draws us to Himself.

“You didn’t choose Me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using My name.” *John 15:16*

“For no one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws them to Me, and at the last day I will raise them up.” *John 6:44*

D. God’s foreknowledge and free will...

“God created things which had free will. That means creatures which can go wrong or right. Some people think they can imagine a creature which was free but had no possibility of going wrong, but I can’t. If a thing is free to be good it’s also free to be bad. And free will is what has made evil possible. Why, then, did God give them free will? Because free will, though it makes evil possible, is also the only thing that makes

possible any love or goodness or joy worth having. A world of automata -of creatures that worked like machines- would hardly be worth creating. The happiness which God designs for His higher creatures is the happiness of being freely, voluntarily united to Him and to each other in an ecstasy of love and delight compared with which the most rapturous love between a man and a woman on this earth is mere milk and water. And for that they’ve got to be free.

Of course God knew what would happen if they used their freedom the wrong way: apparently, He thought it worth the risk. (...) If God thinks this state of war in the universe a price worth paying for free will -that is, for making a real world in which creatures can do real good or harm and something of real importance can happen, instead of a toy world which only moves when He pulls the strings- then we may take it if it is worth paying.”

— C.S. Lewis, *The Case for Christianity*

“There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, ‘Thy will be done,’ and those to whom God says, in the end, Thy will be done.’ All that are in Hell, choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no Hell. No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it. Those who seek find. Those who knock it is opened.”

— C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*

1. From the beginning, God gave man the choice.

“Then God said, ‘Let us make human beings in Our image, to be like Us. They will reign over...’ So God created human beings in His own image.” *Genesis 1:26-27a*

2. God offers each of us a choice with consequences.

“Now listen! Today I am giving you a choice between life and death, between prosperity and disaster. For I command you this day to love the LORD your God and to keep His commands, decrees, and regulations by walking in His ways. If you do this, you will live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you and the land you are about to enter and occupy. But if your heart turns away and you refuse to listen...then I warn you now that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live a long, good life...Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!” *Deuteronomy 30:15-19*

3. God offers the choice to each of us.

“But if you refuse to serve the LORD, then choose today whom you will serve.” *Joshua 24:15a*

4. God is waiting for our response to Him.

“Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear My voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.” *Revelation 3:20*

5. God gives us the choice to follow Him by believing.

“But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God.” *John 1:12*

6. God wants everyone to come to salvation.

“who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.”

1 Timothy 2:4

7. God doesn't want anyone to be lost!

“The Lord isn't really being slow about His promise, as some people think. No, He is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.” 2 Peter 3:9

E. So...

1. You can trust Him with your life!

2. You can trust Him with your resources!

3. You can trust Him with your future!

4. When your life is in His Hands...He will care for you!

Man's emergency is not God's urgency...He already planned for this and He's got you!!

“I am your God and will take care of you until you are old and your hair is gray. I made you and will care for you; I will give you help and rescue you.”

Isaiah 46:4 GNT

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March 29: A Future Life – The Supernatural

“Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, ‘Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons.’” Matthew 25:41