

## **LESSONS ON PREDESTINATION #4** **“The Scope of God’s Plan”** (Scriptures from NKJV)

NOTE: Much of the text herein is quoted directly or paraphrased from the book, *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination* by Lorraine Boettner.

Today’s lesson will be the fourth in the series on Predestination. In the opening lesson we gave a brief history of the teachings of Predestination as held by the major churches through the centuries. We found out that this belief is not something that has been held by just a few, but by the vast majority of the churches. This is not true today, though. Then in the second lesson we defined what we mean by that, in using the Philadelphia Confession of Faith of the Baptists and the Westminster Confession of Faith by the Presbyterians and several others. Then in the last lesson we looked at the topic that God Has a Plan. We considered if any person who has any wisdom at all is going to set out to do something, he must first start with a plan and not just take off in some direction making up plans as he goes along. So God has included everything that comes to pass in His plan.

Today’s lesson is going to be entitled “The Scope of God’s Plan.” In other words, how broad is God’s plan? We are going to be looking at many miscellaneous texts. Due to the number of texts we are covering, I am going to ask that you not take time to look these up in your Bibles, because I am going to be going quickly through these in order to get the lesson completed in its entirety.

There are three major systems of theology that have a world view about the existence of the world as it relates to God. These are all related to the Bible, and they all profess to be Christian. However, they don’t always hold to a consistent Christian world view. The first major system holds that God does not foreordain the future, neither does He foreknow the future. Thereby He is learning what is coming to pass just like we are.

The second system is that God does not foreordain the future, but He foreknows the future. He knows what is going to come to pass, but He does not foreordain the future.

The third system, which we will be holding to in this series, is that God has foreordained all things whatsoever come to pass. Therefore, on the basis of that, He foreknows everything that is going to come to pass. So lets get started this morning on covering just how broad God’s foreordination and His Predestination is. Does it just cover the major events of creation, or does it reach down to the most minute details, even numbering the very hairs of our heads.

A couple of lessons ago we asked you to consider what it would be like if you had never read

the Bible, and if you had never heard of what Christianity was. I am going to ask you to do that again this morning as we read these texts of Scripture. Try to pretend that you are not a Christian, you don't know what a Christian is, have never been to a Christian church, and have never read the Bible. Listen to the texts as they unfold in the Bible and then tell me what you have reached as your conclusion, not based upon what you believe, but what you understand the Bible to teach.

**1. God's Plan is Eternal:**

**II Timothy 1:9** - (It is God) *"who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began."*

**Psalms 33:11** - *"The counsel of the Lord stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations."*

**Isaiah 37:26** - *"Did you not hear long ago how I made it, from ancient times that I formed it? Now I have brought it to pass."*

**Isaiah 46:9-10** - *"Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 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.'"*

**II Thessalonians 2:13** - *"But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth."*

**Matthew 25:34** - *"Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'"*

**I Peter 1:20** - *"He (Christ) indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you."*

**Jeremiah 31:3** - *"The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: 'Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with loving kindness I have drawn you.'"*

**Acts 15:18** - *"Known to God from eternity are all His works."*

**Psalms 139:16** - *"Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them."*

The heading for these texts in number one is "God's Plan is Eternal." I believe these texts cause us to have to reflect upon that. Is this what the Bible teaches? Is God's plan eternal or is He making up plans as time unfolds?

## 2. God's Plan Includes Everything Which Comes to Pass:

**Deuteronomy 32:39** - *"Now see that I, even I, am He, and there is no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; nor is there any who can deliver from My hand."*

**Job 9:12** - *"If He takes away, who can hinder Him? Who can say to Him, 'What are You doing?'"*

**Job 12:6-10** - *"The tents of robbers prosper, and those who provoke God are secure—in what God provides by His hand. But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; And the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; and the fish of the sea will explain to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this, in whose hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind?"*

God's plan even includes the minute things that are found throughout all of His created order. If all the animals, birds, and fish could talk, they could tell you that God has included us in his plan.

**Psalms 33:11** - *"The counsel of the Lord stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations."*

**Psalms 115:3** - *"But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases."*

**Isaiah 14:24** - *"The Lord of hosts has sworn, saying, 'Surely, as I have thought, so it shall come to pass, and as I have purposed, so it shall stand.'"*

Here are texts that indicate that God's plan includes everything that comes to pass, because He pre-planned it.

## 3. God's Plan is Unchangeable:

Reflect upon these texts in the Bible that God's plan is unchangeable. It is eternal, it includes everything that comes to pass, and it is unchangeable. Now, would that not make sense? If God has infinite wisdom and power, why would He need to change anything? Why do we change things? Because we do not have infinite wisdom and infinite power. When we make our plans, we are going in a certain direction and we see that things are not working out, so we have to go another direction. That is especially true of the young man who is in our class today. He was heading to Texas when his car breaks down, and he winds up in a preacher's home for the weekend. He had plans, didn't he? But he didn't plan on his car breaking down. But God's plan is unchangeable because it is rooted in infinite wisdom and power.

**James 1:17** - *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes*

***down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."***

**Isaiah 14:24** - ***"The Lord of hosts has sworn, saying, 'Surely, as I have thought, so it shall come to pass, and as I have purposed, so it shall stand.'"***

**Isaiah 46:10, 11** - ***"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, calling a bird of prey from the east, the man who executes My counsel, from a far country. Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it.'"***

**Numbers 23:19** - ***"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"***

**Malachi 3:6** - ***"For I am the Lord, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob."***

Those of you who are believers, do you see where your security lies? It lies not in your changeable, fickle will, but it lies in God's eternal purpose, and His purpose to save you. Nothing will hinder that or prevent it. It shall come to pass. So if you are struggling with assurance this morning, then realize if He has begun a good work in you, He will perform it unto the day of salvation, or day of redemption.

So God controls the birds, He controls the movements of men, and He can declare the end result from the beginning. Here is a side note that comes to my mind. Do you realize there would be no such thing as prophecy unless God foreordained all things that come to pass? Yet nearly all Christians believe in prophetic teachings that were taught in the Old Testament coming to pass in the New Testament. You couldn't prophesy something that was going to take place unless it was "certain" that it was going to take place.

#### **4. God's Plan Covers the Operations of All Creation:**

**Genesis 8:22** - ***"While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease."***

In Genesis, He who spoke and created all the different activities on the creative days, also set the rotation of the sun, moon and stars, and the different days and nights on earth. All of that will continue until the coming of Christ, and the eternal state is ushered in when a new heaven and new earth will replace this one.

**Psalms 104:13-14** - ***"He waters the hills from His upper chambers; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works. He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, and vegetation for the service of man, that He may bring forth food from the***

***earth."***

Did you eat your breakfast this morning? Did you take time to thank Somebody for it? Who? The baker? Yes, he was involved. The farmer? The miller? The one who manufactures everything? Look at all the different things that were involved and the people who were involved to put food on your table. Yet we pause and say, "Thank you, Father." Now, how can we thank Him without Him being in control of all of these different facets to bring us the food. It is He who feeds the earth, mankind, cattle, etc. God's plan covers all the operations of the creation.

**Psalm 104:19-20** - ***"He appointed the moon for seasons; The sun knows its going down. You make darkness, and it is night, in which all the beasts of the forest creep about."***

**Mark 4:39** - ***"Then He (Christ) arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace, be still!' And the wind ceased and there was a great calm."***

**Ephesians 1:11** - ***"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."***

Now remember, you have never heard any of these things before. You are just now being exposed to Christianity and the Bible. What are you concluding as you hear these various texts selected at random?

## **5. The Divine Plan Includes the Actions of Animals:**

**Numbers 22:28** - ***"Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, 'What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?'"***

Here, God uses an animal to preach, and a female animal at that! He controls all things. Animals are not created with the ability to speak and communicate with humans, but when God works upon their faculties, they can.

**I Kings 17:4** - ***"And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there."***

How do you suppose God did that? Ravens don't understand communication by voices. However, they have instincts, and God can control the instincts. He commands, He governs, He rules. I remember several years ago when we were speaking on the topic of the Prophet Elijah and brought several messages in that area, one of them involved the feeding of Elijah by the ravens. I observed that I like my food clean, and I wonder how hungry I would have to get before I could agree to be fed by a crow. Do you know what crows and ravens eat? They don't eat fresh fried eggs and bacon, they eat rotting stuff. Here comes breakfast, as a raven drops a piece of dead meat! God says that is your breakfast, Elijah. I have fed you

today.

**Daniel 6:22 - "My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you."**

So as God controls a donkey and the ravens, He also controls the nature of lions who would normally have been destructive of Daniel. But God shut their mouths so they did not harm him. Incidentally again, we had another example here recently of a person who tempted God. It was somewhere in Alabama or maybe in Kentucky, we were informed about the fellow who handles snakes. The snake bit him and he died. His belief was based upon the passage found in the Book of Mark, that they shall take up serpents and shall not be harmed (cf. Mark 16:18). They believe that if you have enough faith, you can take up a rattle snake or some poisonous snake and God will keep that snake from biting you. If you don't have enough faith, the snake bites you and in most cases, you die. Now that is not faith, that is presumption. Do you remember any account in the New Testament in which this actually took place, in which someone was bitten by a snake and lived? It was the Apostle Paul when he was shipwrecked. When they were on that island gathering up sticks to make a fire, a serpent bit Paul, and he didn't die. That made an impression upon the natives. That is the only account I know of in the Bible in which this thing took place, of a person being able to handle a snake and yet live. Incidentally, in that same text, you are supposed to be able to drink poison and not die. I don't know why the snake handlers do not include the poison. But I say, that is not faith, that is presumption or tempting God. It would be the same thing if you go and stand in the middle of a railroad track in front of an approaching freight train and say, "I believe this train is not going to hit me. I am going to trust God to bring it to pass." One time two men were discussing the doctrine of Predestination. One of them believed it, but the other didn't. The one that didn't believe it said, "If what you believe about election and Predestination is true, then I could just go out here and stand in front of a train and God's will shall come to pass. The other gentlemen that believed in the sovereignty of God said, "If you were foolish enough to do that, then all that would prove is that God has foreordained for you to be a fool, and you would have just made your calling and election sure." God does use means, but He doesn't act in a foolish way, and He gave us a brain to act as our intelligence directs us.

## **6. The Divine Plan Includes the Actions of Good Angels:**

**Psalm 103:20-21 - "Bless the Lord, you His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word. Bless the Lord, all you His hosts, you ministers of His, who do His pleasure."**

You find in the Scriptures regarding the ministry of angels, three or four texts you can

weave together stating that they stand in the presence of God, waiting for commands from God, upon which when they have received those commands, they immediately carry out those commands, to do the will of God. So all that is included in the actions of holy angels is designed by God. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the angels came and gave the message to the shepherds, and also an angel came to Mary. Would you like to have been that angel, to deliver a message of good news like that? What about when God decreed to send the angels to kill and destroy the first born in Egypt? Would you like to have been given that assignment? The angels carry out both commands, one just as quickly as the other, because they see them coming from God, and that makes it right. ***"Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"*** (Genesis 18:25)

**Psalm 104:4 - *"Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire."***

This tells you who destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.

## **7. The Divine Plan Includes the Actions of Evil Angels (Spirits):**

**I Samuel 16:14-16 - *"But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him. And Saul's servants said to him, 'Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you. Let our master now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp. And it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well.'"***

Do you see what that is saying? Saul is distressed internally, he is disrupted. The text says that God sent that troubling spirit to him. God troubled him. So Samuel said, "Go find somebody that can play a harp." Who was that? David. There is something about harp music that cools and refreshes, and settles the spirit of man. It happened that the distressing spirit from the Lord left Saul, and he was restored to his peace again.

Here is a text that is troubling, even to the most devoted believer in the Bible:

**I Kings 22:19-23 - *"Then Micaiah said, 'Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left. And the Lord said, 'Who will persuade Ahab to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?' So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner. Then a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord, and said, 'I will persuade him.' The Lord said to him, 'In what way?' So he said, 'I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And the Lord said, 'You shall persuade him, and also prevail. Go out and do so.' Therefore look! The Lord has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours, and the Lord has declared disaster against you."***

Does anybody want to take that text and explain it, in harmonizing it with the character of God and with the character of angels? Can God lie? No, God cannot lie. That is found in

the Book of Titus. Can a holy angel lie? No, not without becoming a sinner. Then what kind of an angel is sent in this text? It is a fallen angel, a demon. Do you remember the scene, God is on the throne, some angels are on the right, some on the left? Connect that with the first chapter of Job when you see Satan appearing before God. God said, "where have you been?" Satan said, "I've been down there on earth going to and fro." God said, "Did you see my servant Job? He is the best one I've got down there. What do you think of him?" Satan said, "I think he is a hypocrite. I think he only serves You for the blessings You give him. Let me at him and when I remove all these blessings, he will curse You to Your face." So the Lord permitted Satan to go inflict Job. You see, my people, that scene is going on all the time. Right now as we are sitting here in this classroom in Hueytown, Alabama, there are delegates being sent, evil and holy, in the realm of the unseen to work upon the minds of men to either be a true prophet or a false prophet. And God controls the mouths of false prophets with their lies the same way He does for the true spokesman of God. Yet, God can ordain all of that and remain holy, just and good, as well as undefiled in anyway, because He has foreordained all things that come to pass. This includes the actions of animals, plants, the wind, the sun, moon and stars, mankind, angels, holy and unholy. Did you know this was in the Christian Bible? Well hold on, we are not yet finished.

#### **8. The Divine Plan Includes the Future Acts of Men:**

**Daniel 2:28 - *"But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these."***

Here is Daniel telling the King Nebuchadnezzar the meaning of his dream. God had to not only reveal the dream to Daniel, but He had to reveal the meaning of the dream. These revelations were what was going to take place in the future acts of Nebuchadnezzar. Do you recall the life of Nebuchadnezzar how he boasted about all that he had done? He said, "I have done this and that and the other," and God humbled him by reducing him to the level of an animal for seven years. Then God gave him his intelligence back. Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Now I know there is a God in heaven." (see Daniel 4:34-37).

**John 6:64 - *"But there are some of you who do not believe. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him."***

Did you catch that? It says that Jesus knew from the beginning. Remember our systems of theology? The one system says that God doesn't foreordain anything. How does that understanding fit into that text? Jesus knew from the beginning that Judas was going to betray Him. That doesn't fit does it?

Then there are those who maintain that God cannot foreordain because if He did foreordain the actions of men, then that would reduce men to the role of robots. Therefore, they



couldn't be held morally accountable for their actions. Was Judas held accountable for his actions? Absolutely. And yet his actions were ordained by God. Jesus said, **"Woe unto that man, it would have been better for him if he had never been born."** (Mark 14:21). But Judas was born. On the judgment day, Judas will answer to God for his actions. For three years he had the opportunity of sitting under the greatest Teacher that heaven and earth has ever heard. But yet he was the treasurer and loved money more than he loved Jesus. He was hoping that Jesus would make him "secretary of the treasury" when Jesus overthrew the Romans and set up His kingdom. He thought there would be great days ahead if he identified with this Man, Jesus. Does this strike your thinking processes? Is there anybody like that today? Would it not be those who preach the health and wealth gospel? They say that God wants you to be healthy and wealthy and wise. He wants you to have the best today. Is it possible for men such as that, who we see on television preaching to thousands, that they will stand on that day and hear the words of Jesus who they professed to follow and serve, **"I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"** "I never knew you, and you never knew Me." (Cf. Matthew 7:23) They will stammer and say, "But, but, but, we have cast out demons, we've preached in your name, we have done all of these things." Jesus says, "I never knew you. You did it for yourselves. You didn't promote Me, but your own self-interests."

**Matthew 20:18-19 - "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again."**

Those are the words of Jesus. Were those actions of Jesus foreordained? Was it certain that this would happen, or was this just a good guess? You see what these other systems say, that God doesn't foreordain, He just foreknows. What a wonderful thing to come to pass, that Jesus just came, not knowing what He was coming for, but He was crucified, the third day He rose again, etc. You see how foolish a position we get ourselves into when we try to deny the basic teachings of Scripture. And yet the masses of Christians today are in that category.

## **9. The Divine Plan Includes the Good Acts of Men:**

**John 15:16 - "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you."**

**Ephesians 2:10 - "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."**

Wasn't it just a marvelous accident that this young man here today was on his way moving

from Philadelphia to San Antonio, and his car breaks down about ten miles from me. I am looking forward to having lunch with him today to figure out how he ever got in touch with me. Somehow there was a Facebook message from a preacher friend of mine, Bro. Tomlinson, in San Antonio. I know him vaguely, having spoken with him in a Bible conference. He has a friend who somehow got my telephone number, and I find out that we have an opportunity to perform a cup of cold water. So what I want you to know that God not only foreordained your vehicle to break down, but He foreordained somebody to help you out on the way. All of that was ordained before the world began.

**Philippians 2:12-13** - *"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."*

Just as God fed me and Carolyn this morning, so He has allowed this young man to have a means of getting on to Texas, and nothing gives me more delight than to be able to help somebody along the way, especially when I look back over my life and remember all of the help that has been given to me. There have been mechanics who have helped me out when I didn't have any money when my car broke down. It is just mind-boggling to see how God can teach you something in the valley as well as on the mountain top. Whether it is up or down, it is God in the midst of it all.

#### **10. The Divine Plan Includes Matters of Chance:**

**Proverbs 16:33** - *"The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord."*

Get your dice out - I use dice in the game of Monopoly. You roll the dice out and wherever the dice lands, it is where God appointed it. I wish I had known that all the years I played Monopoly. It seems like my uncle always got Park Place and the better properties rather than me. I might get a railroad here and there. If you don't know what Monopoly is, just let this go in one ear and out the other. That is not in the Bible, incidently. *"The lot is cast into the lap, but every decision is from the Lord."* Remember last week about the guy in Vegas who got so drunk that he lost \$500,000, and he was suing the club because they allowed him to drink too much and he didn't know what he was doing? Did you read about that? No, God just ordained for him to be a fool and he lost \$500,000.

**Jonah 1:7** - *"And they said to one another, 'Come, let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble has come upon us.' So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah."*

I don't know what kind of lots they used. When I played ball in grade school and in

choosing up teams we drew straws. Are you familiar with that? Whoever had the different straw got to be the captain of the team. So the lot fell on Jonah, he was the guilty one.

**Acts 1:24; 26 - *"And they prayed and said, 'You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen . . .' And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles."***

At many Baptist business meetings that I have participated in, I am almost ready to take up this practice. I think it might work out much better than allowing everybody to say, "I think this ought to be done, I think that ought to be done," and end up having a fuss with some even getting shot. Did you know that in Baptist business meetings, deacons have pulled out guns and shot the pastor, all in the name of Christ? It would be better when you didn't know which way to go, to just draw straws, and say this is the way we ought to go. I think I have told you that I have driven by a church in Mississippi on my way down there to preach, and as I drove by, I looked back at the church in my rearview mirror and one-half of the roof was green and the other part was red. When I arrived at my destination, I asked the pastor, "I passed a church back down the road that had a roof that was half green and the other half was red." He said, "Yes, they had a church split over that. They couldn't decide which color to paint it, so in order to keep everybody happy, one side got their roof green and the other half got their roof red." Oh, my, I wonder if God laughs like we do about the silliness and fickleness of people. Yet in all of this, God has teaching lessons for us.

**Job 36:32 - *"He covers His hands with lightning, And commands it to strike."***

**I Kings 22:28, 34 - *"But Micaiah said, 'If you ever return in peace, the Lord has not spoken by me.' And he said, 'Take heed, all you people!' . . . Now a certain man drew a bow at random, and struck the king of Israel between the joints of his armor. So he said to the driver of his chariot, 'Turn around and take me out of the battle, for I am wounded.'"***

Here is a bowman in a battle that is evidently closing down. Evidently he had one arrow left, so he just shot it at random, and it hit the king right between where his armor didn't cover, and he died. God controlled that arrow. That reminds me of when I used to go quail hunting, and if I had a bad day and didn't get to shoot the gun, at the end of the day I would put the dogs in the truck and shoot the shotgun three times to empty the chamber. I would say, "at least I did something today." I can sort of get the image of this fellow's thinking. "Well, I don't know if I hit anybody today, so I am just going to get rid of this arrow." God takes that arrow and hits His target right in a fatal spot.

**Job 5:6 - *"For affliction does not come from the dust, Nor does trouble spring from the ground."***

That is something to reflect on when you don't have a good day. Where did it come from? It didn't just come out of the dust of the earth, it comes from God's appointments.

**Mark 14:30** - *"Jesus said to him, 'Assuredly, I say to you that today, even this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.'"*

These so-called matters of chance are under the control of God.

#### **11. Some Events are Recorded as Fixed or Inevitably Certain:**

**Luke 22:22** - *"And truly the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!"*

He alluded to Judas. Was it not determined beforehand that Judas would betray his Lord? Did Jesus know about it beforehand? Yes, but notice it was not only rendered certain, but Judas was held accountable. - *"Woe to that man by whom He is betrayed."*

**John 8:20** - *"These words Jesus spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one laid hands on Him, for His hour had not yet come."*

**Matthew 24:36** - *"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only."*

That is certainty!

**Genesis 41:32** - *"And the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass."*

**Habakkuk 2:3** - *"For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, It will not tarry."*

**Luke 21:24** - *"And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled."*

Do we see "certainty" here in these texts, or am I misreading this? These things are certain and going to happen.

**Jeremiah 15:2** - *"And it shall be, if they say to you, 'Where should we go?' Then you shall tell them, 'Thus says the Lord: 'Such as are for death, to death; and such as are for the sword, to the sword; and such as are for the famine, to the famine; and such as are for the captivity, to the captivity.'"*

Different segments of Israel would experience different things when the Babylonians come in.

**Job 14:5** - *"Since his days are determined, The number of his months is with You; You have appointed his limits, so that he cannot pass."*

**Jeremiah 27:7** - *"So all nations shall serve him and his son and his son's son, until the time of his land comes; and then many nations and great kings shall make him serve them."*

**12. Even the Sinful Acts of Men are Included in the Plan and are Overruled for Good.**

**Genesis 50:20** - *"But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."*

We are all familiar with this incident. Joseph's brothers were jealous of him and sold him into Egyptian slavery, and through many trials there, Joseph was elevated to be next to Pharaoh in power. He was in charge of the food supply. A great drought hits, and what do his brothers have to do? They have to travel many miles to go to Egypt because there was food there prepared in advance. Do you realize that Joseph's brothers who sinned against him, (and they did sin, they confessed it), were actually saved from starving to death by their sinning against Joseph? Do you see how all of this weaves together by harmonizing the statement, *"You meant evil against me; but God meant it for good?"*

**Judges 14:1-4** - *"Now Samson went down to Timnah, and saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines. So he went up and told his father and mother, saying, 'I have seen a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife.' Then his father and mother said to him, 'Is there no woman among the daughters of your brethren, or among all my people, that you must go and get a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?' And Samson said to his father, 'Get her for me, for she pleases me well.' But his father and mother did not know that it was of the Lord—that He was seeking an occasion to move against the Philistines. For at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel."*

Our God is on the throne. He rules over Russia and all that is going on over there today. He is moving here and there. He rules over our President. Our President may be ordained to make another foolish decision, but it is all in God's hands. When God is going to stir up a hornet's nest against an individual or against a nation, He will use human instruments to bring it to pass. He even controls the sinful acts. He will bring the Babylonians in to chastise His people Israel for their many years of sinning, and then He will turn around and punish the Babylonians for what they did to His people Israel.

**Psalms 76:10** - *"Surely the wrath of man shall praise You; With the remainder of wrath You shall gird Yourself."*

In other words, "You shall restrain." What is it that is keeping this world from becoming a

hell on earth? The restraining grace of God which restrains the wickedness of men. All God has to do is to remove that restraint and the wicked hearts of men start acting, and sins serve as a punishment for sin.

**Isaiah 45:7** - *"I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the Lord, do all these things."*

**Amos 3:6** - *"If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people be afraid? If there is calamity in a city, will not the Lord have done it?"*

**Acts 3:18** - *"But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled."*

**Matthew 21:42** - *"Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the Scriptures: The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes?'"*

Now, tell me what you think, if you had never read the Bible before or never attended a Christian church, and you have now heard these 62 texts of Scripture. What is your world view? Give us your world view as if you were an unbeliever. What are you going to do with this?

Jim Gunn: My world view is that the Bible is true and it is God's word.

Jim: Now that is your world view now, but what if you were an unbeliever and this is the first time you have ever heard these things? You have given us your testimony before.

Jim Gunn: I didn't always believe that of course. I thought it was foolishness.

Jim: Is man born believing these things? Why do men come out of their mother's womb fighting against these things? Give us a couple of answers.

Wade: Because of our sin nature that we are born with.

Frankie: Even an infant does not like for his hands to be restrained, men hate someone controlling their lives.

Jim Gunn: You can take a child and give it an order. For example, tell a child not to open a door. For no other reason than that you told the child not to open the door, He will do everything in his power to open that door. All of a sudden it becomes an obsession with him to disobey.

Jim: Reflect on the fact that a perfect man and woman were put in a perfect environment in the Garden and still they became discontented with that. That is the closet door. Satan told them that there was something better for them.

Clint: While you were teaching, I was trying to imagine how I could cleanse my mind, having always experienced being a Christian all these years, and to try to put myself in a situation where it was the first time I had ever heard anything about God and the scriptures.

I am thinking that maybe I would be so overwhelmed that I would either come back for more information, or I would just discard it and never pursue it again. So Being a Christian, I don't know how you could cleanse your mind of all your experiences and try to pretend this is the first time you have ever heard it. It would be tough.

Candy: It is difficult to step out of yourself metaphorically, believing what we believe. But logically, it would seem to me there would be no other conclusion to draw, because you hear it over and over and it would seem to me to be a logical thing to think if you heard that over and over and over.

Frankie: It would produce horror and terror in your mind that you were wrong and you were destined to damnation . . . .

Clint: Just an adult person coming in for the first time, and you've got to ask the question, even if you've never heard anything about the gospel, "Who am I, where did I come from, what am I doing here, and where am I going?" Now it seems to me like, if you live so long, you've got to wonder about those things.

Jim: Okay, I hope we see the Scope of God's Plan.