



UPLOOK SUMMER BIBLE PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION...

Vital to our understanding and appreciation of the “glorious gospel of the blessed (happy) God” (1 Tim. 1:11) is the understanding of the words connected to our salvation. First, a few notes about salvation itself:

I. Salvation is Found in receiving a Person: “But we preach Christ crucified...” (1 Cor. 1:23). “I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day” (2 Tim. 1:12). “...Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead... Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:10-12).

II. Salvation includes many interconnected teachings: Here are some examples: “For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also justified: and whom He justified, them He also glorified” (Rom. 8:29-30). “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: according as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace” (Eph. 1:3-7).

These many blessings are necessary to meet certain requirements of the law, to correct de-

ficiencies in man, to provide new resources for the life of faith, or to manifest the glories of God.

Note three impediments to grasping these revealed truths:

a) We come with preconceived ideas about the meaning of words like predestination, foreknowledge, election (choosing), and adoption instead of allowing the Word to speak for itself.

b) We confuse these truths as if the words were interchangeable.

c) We are seeking to understand with finite minds what is infinite.

Yet there is something for us to enjoy in these truths or God would not have revealed them. As much as possible, we must let the Word define both the words and their relationship to each other so that our understanding is consistent with the Bible.

Three verses help us understand the relationships between these four aspects of sovereignty:

1. “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ...” (1 Pet. 1:2).

2. “Having predestinated us unto the adoption of sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will” (Eph. 1:5).

3. “For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren” (Rom. 8:29).

Let’s work out definitions of some of the words associated with God’s purposes for His people.



UPLOOK SUMMER BIBLE PROGRAM

WORD # 1: FOREKNOWLEDGE

FILL IN THE BLANKS

Fill in these blanks as you watch the teaching video.

1. The root of foreknowledge is the Greek work _____ which means to _____ and can be used in Scripture in a _____ sense and a _____ sense.
2. The plans of God in eternity would not only affect _____ but affect _____ when we leave this world and step into _____ .
3. God knew all beforehand, so knew we would _____ and, on that basis, designed _____ for us in His plan.
4. You will _____ that all the mistakes, mishaps, failures and weaknesses of your life were simply the means by which _____ to be exactly the person _____ in the world to come.

GO TO THE WORD

Who or what was foreknown in the following verses?

1 Pet 1:19-20 _____

Acts 2:23 _____

Rom 11:2 _____

Rom 8:29 _____

Some suggest foreknowing can mean "foreloving" because to know can refer to sexual intimacy. But notice the following verses. Who is the one foreknowing? Can these mean foreloved?

Acts 26:5 _____

2 Pet 3:17 _____

What other doctrine is predicated on God's foreknowledge according to 1 Peter 1:2?

Try to write as comprehensive a definition of foreknowledge as you can:



UPLINK SUMMER BIBLE PROGRAM

WORD # 1: FOREKNOWLEDGE

SOME HELPFUL QUOTES

“No failure on man’s part could thwart the overall purposes of God.”

FOREKNOWLEDGE, *prognosis*: “to know before” (*pro*, “before,” *ginosko*, “to know”), is used (a) of **Divine knowledge**, concerning (1) **Christ**, I Peter 1:20, (RV has “foreknown,” AV has “fore-ordained”); (2) **Israel** as God’s earthly people, Romans 11:2; (3) **believers**, Romans 8:29; (b) of **human knowledge**, (1) of **persons**, Acts 26:5; (2) of **facts**, 2 Peter 3:17 (VINE’S DICTIONARY).

KEY PASSAGES:

Ex 3:19
I Sam 23:11-12
Isa 46:9-10
Isa 42:9
Ps 139:14-16
Jer 1:5
Jer 51:29
Acts 2:23
Acts 3:18
Rom 8:29
Rom 11:2
Heb 4:13
I Pet 1:2, 19-20
2 Pet 3:17
Jn 8:58

“The fact of God’s Foreknowledge admits that He’s unmistakably certain of the clear knowledge of all that will take place, but His Foreknowledge does not determine what takes place... Because God knows certain things, it does not necessarily say that God is not in sympathy with it. He knows all wrong doings, as well as, He knows all that transpires in the realm of righteousness and truth.” (Telford, p. 64)

“...It is the believer’s faith, as a future fact, but in His sight already existing, which determines His foreknowledge. This faith does not exist because God sees it; He sees it, on the contrary, because it will come into being at a given moment in time...” (Fisk, p. 75)

“If you were to refrain, then God’s foreknowledge would have been different. So, by acting one way or the other, I have the ability to act in such a way that God’s foreknowledge would have been different than it is in fact. And that’s sufficient for freedom. There’s nothing about God’s merely knowing about something in advance that takes away my freedom to do otherwise.” (William Lane Craig)

“How, then, can God be sure that what He foreknows will happen and that something will not intervene to change the future? He knows what will happen because He is all-knowing and therefore the future is as plain to Him as the past.” (Hunt, p. 144)

“In Acts 2:23 we read about God’s ‘determined purpose and foreknowledge.’ Clearly, foreknowledge is a separate concept to determined purpose... God possesses foreknowledge of many things, like sinful acts, which He in no way desires or plans.” (Ward, p. 81)

(More quotes on the next page...)



UPLOOK SUMMER BIBLE PROGRAM

WORD# 1: FOREKNOWLEDGE

SOME MORE HELPFUL QUOTES

"Foreknowledge is Heaven's perfect warranty covering the total fulfillment of every 'jot and tittle' (Mt. 5:18) of every aspect of the will of God." (Wilkinson, p. 11)

"The proliferation of this great truth throughout the Bible is that foreknowledge might encourage, reassure, and establish the believer's trust in the Lord." (Wilkinson, p. 14)

"The term foreknowledge occurring with the marvelous truths of election and predestination is God's assurance to all that His eternal plan to obtain a Bride for His Son and present that Bride to His Son shall be fulfilled with the most exacting attention to every detail of His promise." (Wilkinson, p. 18)

"FOREKNOWLEDGE: That aspect of God's nature that gave Him the ability to design the plan of salvation before time with all facts at hand." Knowing beforehand Satan's rebellion and man's joining him as an accomplice, Israel's failure, their rejection of Messiah (Acts 2:23), and the personal failures of His people, God nevertheless devised a certain plan that would overrule man's stupidity and would accomplish it in spite of us. It determined His elective scheme regarding Israel (Rom. 11:2), the Christ (1 Pet. 1:19-20), the Church (1 Pet. 1:2). Romans 9:11 declares that no failure on man's part could thwart the overall purposes of God. His choice was made before they had done good or evil, and so anything they might do subsequently could not change His plan. (The word cannot mean fore-loved as used in Acts 26:5 and 2 Peter 3:17). NB: For an interesting case, see David at Keilah (1 Sam. 23:11-12)." (J. B. Nicholson)

WORKS CITED (AND RESOURCES YOU SHOULD GET)

Telford, A. (1980). *Subjects of sovereignty* (p. 46). Mission, TX: Harvest Time Ministries.

Fisk, S. (1973). *Seeing both sides: Divine sovereignty and human freedom* (p. 75). Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Bros.

Reasonable Faith (Producer). (2013). *William Lane Craig Q&A: If God knows my decisions how do I have free will?* [Youtube]. Available from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7USxGUOefrg>

Hunt, D. (2002). *What love is this? Calvinism's misrepresentation of God* (p. 144). Sisters, OR: Loyal Publishing

Ward, D. (2008). *Programmed by God or free to choose?* (p. 81). Eugene, OR: Resource Publications

Wilkinson, D.B. (1983). *Bridal blessings: Election and predestination* (pp. 11, 14). Self published

FOR FURTHER UPLOOK RESOURCES ON THIS TOPIC:

<http://www.uplook.org/2012/06/by-faith-joseph/>

<http://www.uplook.org/2007/08/so-great-salvation/>

<http://www.uplook.org/2000/11/journey-back-into-eternity/>

<http://www.uplook.org/1996/10/joseph-beloved-and-hated/>