

CHAPTER 9

PREDESTINATION ~ WHEN DID GOD FIRST LOVE YOU?

*“...You loved me before the foundation
of the world” ~Yeshua*

This chapter and the next chapter may be the most difficult chapters for some to accept, but they're also two of the most exciting chapters! Our minds get seared closed by what we think we know. When we are wrong, our confidence that we are already “right” hinders truth from entering our hearts. It is not the intent of this work to try and convince anyone of anything. It is the purpose of this book to expand the minds of my readers, to engage them in deeper thought, to spur further Biblical study, and to put forth before them the evidence for further evaluation. I'll leave the “convincing” to God and the evidence.

Let's briefly summarize a few things before going forward. So far in this book we have seen that there is a real Hell, called Sheol in the Hebrew tongue and Hades in the Greek. Hell is an expansive area deep in the heart of the earth made of several distinct sectors or divisions, the main compartment being for the

common dead, but with a different area for the very wicked and another for the fallen rebellious angels. Until Messiah came, all the dead went to Sheol but the righteous rested in a part of Sheol called paradise. Now that Messiah has come, the righteous believers are taken by God to be with Messiah in heaven, while the rest of the dead rest in Sheol and await God's judgment and resurrection. We have also seen that man is a multifaceted being made in God's image and likeness. It's not that man has a soul. Man is a soul – a living *nepesh* housed in a physical body. Also, there is a spirit in man. God moves man from one body to another, but the man lives because God loves us and has given us salvation through Yeshua, and because God created us to be able to transition this way for our life is in the inner-man.

But when did God first love you?

Not, when did God first think of you or begin planning and preparing for you, but when did God first love you? When did He make your soul in His image? God may have been preparing for us from before the time He first made our souls, but certainly He has been preparing for us from the time He created us. Indeed, this preparation continues even now.

I remember when I was a young man, the dreams my young wife and I had of having a family. We planned. My wife went into “nesting mode.” I went into

“provider mode.” I wanted to provide, not only for the physical needs of my children, I wanted to teach them the right way so they could excel in life. I especially want to turn their hearts toward God and teach them to love God, so they could excel eternally. Our dreams led to plans. Plans led to preparation and implementation of the plans. As we waited for our children, we were filled with anticipation and hope.

How long has God anticipated you?

How long has God planned for you?

How long has God prepared a hope filled future for you?

When did God first create your soul? I did not ask when were you born, but when did God create your soul. Do you know? Let’s see. It all started in a beginning.

I am reminded of the words of our Great Rabbi when He said to His Father; “You loved me before the foundation of the world (John 17:24).” Indeed, Yeshua was pre-ordained to give His life as a ransom for the world before it was ever created (Rev 13:8). Yeshua, shedding His blood as the Lamb of God, was not an afterthought once man sinned. God always knew man would sin. Flesh and blood is weak. The prophets always knew all of mankind was incapable of saving themselves (Isa 64:5).

So we know God loved Yeshua and pre-ordained Him to be our Messiah from before He even laid the foundation of the world. It was on the fourth day of creation that the sun and moon were created and the passing of time instituted. Remember, the sun, moon and stars were given to us for the measuring of events called “time” (Gen 1:14 – 19). The earth rotating around the sun was a measurement of time called a year. The rotation of the moon around the earth gives us our months. The rotation of the earth on its axis gives us the 24 hour day. Before the sun, moon, earth or stars existed, there was no time. Messiah was before time – before even the foundation of the world (John 1:1 – 5).

John 17:22-24

And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:

23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

24 "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. (emphasis mine)

You cannot love someone who does not yet exist. Messiah was loved from before time began.

What about you and me? When did God first love us?

Messiah's words to the Father about loving us as He loves Messiah, are deep and perplexing (John 17:23). When did God first love us and begin planning for us? Could it be that God also loved us from "before the foundation of the world"?

God has been waiting for you for a long long time! Indeed, God has been preparing for you and me from before the passing of time, as we think of it today. Messiah was not created. Clearly, we were all created by Him, so we are not eternal in the way God is. But to be loved from before the foundation of the world is absolutely an amazing thing to consider.

Eph 1:4-9

⁴ In the Messiah he chose us in love before the creation of the universe to be holy and without defect in his presence.

⁵ He determined in advance that through Yeshua the Messiah we would be his sons — in keeping with his pleasure and purpose —

⁶ so that we would bring him praise commensurate with the glory of the grace he gave us through the Beloved One.

7 In union with him, through the shedding of his
blood, we are set free — our sins are forgiven;
this accords with the wealth of the grace
8 he has lavished on us. In all his wisdom and
insight
9 he has made known to us his secret plan,
which by his own will he designed beforehand
in connection with the Messiah. CJB

God had designed a plan that included each of us, before He made the universe. He determined in advance that we would be His sons and daughters. How great is our Father and the anointed Messiah, who have chosen us in mercy and love? No matter what the circumstances of your birth or life, God has a plan of love and life for each of us that pre-dates us by many millions of years. Some religions claim that the earth is only 6000 years old. This is not what the Bible teaches. Yes, the Garden of Eden was approximately 6000 ago – Adam and Eve were put here approximately 6000 years ago, but the earth existed long before that. Let's understand:

Initially, God created the heavens and the earth (Gen 1:1). Then the earth *became* a different way. Let's see:

Gen 1:1-2

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep.

Notice the word translated “was” in verse one where it says “The earth was...” This word “was” is translated from the Hebrew word הָיָה *hāyāh*. “Hayah” is a verb used over 3500 times in the Tanach. It means *to become, to happen*. It indicates that the earth became the way it was described as being in verse two. It was not created that way. This same word “hayah” is used to describe what happened to Lot’s wife when she *became* (hayah) a pillar of salt (Gen 19:26). Obviously Lot did not marry a pillar of salt. That was not her initial condition. Lot’s wife *became* a pillar of salt later.

Let’s now see the meaning of the words “without form” and “void” are:

“Without form” is translated from the Hebrew word תוֹהוּ *tōhû*, while “void” is translated from the Hebrew word בֹּהוּ *bōhû*. The meaning of “tohu” is: *chaos, confusion, vain, wasteland*, while “bohu” means *void* or *emptiness*. Yet we see that God Himself said that He did not create the word in “tohu.”

Isa 45:18

For thus says the LORD , Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did

not create it in vain (tohu), Who formed it to be inhabited: "I *am* the LORD , and *there is* no other.

God said through His prophet Isaiah that He did not create the word in "tohu." Thus it *became* that way! God spoke to Jeremiah and referred to the foolishness of His people Israel and the resulting destruction of their land, and commented that things had again become "tohu and bohu."

Jer 4:23

I beheld the earth, and indeed *it was* without form, and void; And the heavens, they *had* no light.

Here God's creation had again become "tohu" and "bohu" – chaos, destruction and confusion. In the days of Noah, the whole earth was flooded. In Genesis 2 we read of the pre-adamic flood, for the whole earth is pictured as being flooded, destroyed and filled with chaos. The apostle Kefa (Peter) also spoke of this pre-adamic flood:

2 Peter 3:5-6

For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,
6 by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water.

Scholars agree, the context Kefa uses here is clearly referring to the creation perishing and the earth being flooded before Adam was created.

Scripture indicates that the earth will again be in a state of “tohu” and “bohu” after the Great Tribulation (see Isa 24, and Revelation).

So what we read about in Genesis 1:2 is God – renewing the face of the earth. Notice:

Ps 104:30

You send forth Your Spirit, they are created;
And You renew the face of the earth.

What’s the point of all this? The point is to help those readers understand that the earth is much much older

than 6000 years. Thus, God has loved us for much longer than 6000 years! Science estimates the earth to be about 13 billion years old!

The earth had been destroyed, and so God renewed the face of the earth – he did not have to create it again from nothing.

Remember, the first four days of creation, were before the measuring of time in terms of earth years existed! To be in existence before that time is an incalculable duration of time. The first four days could have been many millions or even billions of earth years ago!

Notice again the fascinating and revealing words of Torah, inscribed for us long ago.

Gen 2:4-7

4 This *is* the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,

5 before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and *there was* no man to till the ground;

The word translated “history” in verse four is **תולדות** *tôledôt*, which literally means “genealogy” or “generations.” Many Rabbinical scholars have long

understood this passage as affirming God created all the generations of man, at one time, in the *FIRST* day.

Notice the Rabbinical commentary by textual scholars as listed in the respected SONCINO CHUMASH on Genesis 2:4,

“these. Enumerated above (R) are the generations...that the LORD God made. The inference is that they were all created on the first day (R).” THE SONCINO CHUMASH, the Soncino Press LTD.© 1983

Indeed they must have been, for the next verse in the passage reads, “before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown...and *there was* no man to till the ground Gen 2:5).” God made the souls of all men before any vegetation had grown on the earth. We know God created trees, plants and vegetation on the third day and man on the sixth day. But this passages states God created all genealogies, all generations BEFORE there was a man to till the earth and BEFORE there was even any plant of the field to be found upon the earth! We know the body of Adam was made on the 6th day out of the dust of the earth. But here we see God had already made Adam’s soul prior that. Indeed, he made all the

generations of men on or before the first day of creation!

Can you fathom that truth? Each generation was pre-thought out, planned for and anticipated. You are not an accident!

God was giving encouragement to Isaiah showing that He was in control and could do all things, when He said:

Isa 41:4

4 Who has performed and done *it*, calling the generations from the beginning? 'I, the LORD, am the first; And with the last I *am* He.'"

One might argue against the opining scholars, but the words mean what they mean and what was written was written. Further, Gen 2:4-5 is not all we have. In fact, we have quite an array of passages all speaking the same thing. It was in that day, *BEFORE* the physical creation of man out of the dust of the ground, that God first made all the generations of men. That is a clear reference to the souls of all generations being pre-incarnate and of a separate creation than that of the body. Notice again:

Gen 2:7

And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

Here we see the dual creation of man.

- 1 Man was formed of the dust of the ground – physical anatomical.
- 2 God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life (spirit) and man became a living soul.

Textural scholars have also noticed the same thing in the structure of the original Hebrew text of Gen 2:7. Notice the Rabbinical commentary of scholars regarding this passage:

“7. formed. The double yad with which the verb is written denotes a double ‘forming,’ ...” They continue: *“and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. He made him of the nether and upper elements: the body from the nether (dust) and the soul from the upper (R).”* THE SONCINO CHUMASH, the Soncino Press LTD.© 1983

God first breathed our souls into existence. The breath of life – His beautiful life giving Spirit – came out from between God’s lips. God spoke and our soul

came into existence on the first day of creation, at the very latest. But I think even before that, as we shall see. However, we also know God had predestined us from before He ever laid the foundation of the earth! How else could He say we were pre-destined and loved from *before* the foundation of the world? Remember, accepting God's word is an act of faith. I believe God.

So, many have asked me and one must wonder, what has been the state of the souls of men for all those billions of years, before the days arrived that were fashioned for them? We know that the souls were alive, for it says God breathed life into them. We know the souls were knowable, for it says God knew them. Even if you only considered what the souls of men have been doing since the creation of Adam and Eve in the flesh 6000 years ago. What kind of life did the souls of men have before their birth into the flesh, while they waited? We don't know, for God has only revealed little bits of information. But we do know some things. Mostly we have clues. In this chapter we're dealing with facts. In the next chapter, we'll examine some revealing clues. Now let's continue with Biblical facts about when God first loved us.

Often we can tend to gloss over passages, without ever really considering what they are saying. It's amazing how many passages detail information for us that God has determined from before the foundation of the

world (Mt 13:35, Mt 25:34, Luke 11:50, John 17:24, Rev 13:8, Rev 17:8, 1 Pet 1:20, Heb 4:3, Heb 9:26, Eph 1:4)!

- The spilling of the blood of the prophets was foreordained before time began (Luke 11:50). They were living sacrifices.
- We were specifically and personally selected to be God's firstfruits from before the foundation of the world (Eph 1:4, Rom 8).
- It was determined, before the foundation of the world, that Messiah would be the perfect sacrifice to atone for the sins of mankind (1 Pet 2:19 – 20).
- God loved us before the foundation of the world (John 17:23 – 24).
- We were selected to be sanctified by God's "foreknowledge" (1 Pet 1:2).
- These secret mysteries are now being revealed (Mt 13:35, Dan 12:4).

We know God is no respecter of persons. We've already seen that the Brit Hadashah Congregation (New Testament Church) was foreordained from

before the foundation of the world! God treats all His children with the same love and devotion and anticipation. See what God spoke about Jeremiah.

Jer 1:5

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;
Before you were born I sanctified you; I
ordained you a prophet to the nations."

How can God know us before we were born? Our birth is physical. God has known our soul from before the foundation of the world. How can we be sanctified before we exist? How can we be personally known before we exist? One could argue that this means Jeremiah would be sanctified at birth, but that's not the verbiage God told Jeremiah to use. You cannot sanctify something that does not exist. God sanctified Jeremiah – his life – his soul, from before he was born. There's more – much more.

Ps 139:16-17

6 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.

17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

God saw David before he was formed, verse 6. How long before he was formed? Before there were any

days! That means, before the 1st day – before the foundation of the earth! WOW!

We know time began on the fourth day, for that is when God put the sun and the moon in place for us to keep time by. But we have record of the 1st day in Genesis 1. God knew David *BEFORE* the first day! God has known each of us from before there were any days. In fact, God specifically tells us He made the days for us!

“The days fashioned for me, when as yet there none of them! (Ps 139:71).

God fashioned the days to prepare for the arrival of David and all those who lived during His time. God loves us all with the same love and devotion, and He fashions the days for each of us. God also fashions each man and woman’s heart individually. The creation is still going on. You are God’s creation!

Ps 33:14-15

From the place of His dwelling He looks On all the inhabitants of the earth;

15 He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works. (emphasis mine)

This realization is a big “WOW” moment. Imagine, God actually creating and fashioning days just for you to live in under the sun. God has been waiting for us for a long time. Now He is fashioning our hearts individually! What a hope filled future. What an awesome Father our God is. Now is our time. These are our days, created for us. Don’t waste them.

God told Abraham what would happen to his offspring – right down to the very day, because it was God who made the days for Abraham.

Gen 15:13-16

Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land *that is* not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.

14 And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.

15 Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age.

16 But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites *is* not yet complete."

Abraham’s descendents had no power or control over their destiny, other than to seek God and entreat Him for mercy, for God reserves the right to change things

for us, according to how we respond to Him. Israel was destined to be slaves in Egypt, destined to be persecuted, destined to live in bondage and persecution in Egypt for four hundred years. This was fulfilled right down to the very day (Ex 12:41). Pharaoh too was predestined (Rom 9:17). Jew's don't get to decide if they want to be Jews. They don't get to decide if they would like to get circumcised. It's done for them. They receive a sign of God's covenant before they are old enough to even understand it. It's not that Jews are greater than other people at all – it's that God chooses who He will set apart and when. God has also chosen many Gentiles to be firstfruits. It's God who decides these things – like it or not. No one gets to determine these things except God, and He has determined the generations of men in detail from the beginning (Isa 41:4). God decided long ago how He would bless His children and when. Our part is to trust our Father and to learn to work with Him not against Him. This was the lesson of Jacob and Esau – one that we all need to learn.

Gen 25:23

And the LORD said to her: "Two nations *are* in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; *One* people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger."

Jacob didn't steal his brother's birthright. Esau sold it. But the bigger picture was that God had already determined that He would bless the world through Jacob – that's predestination. But God has a plan for blessing Esau too and to bless the whole world. I'll share it with you now. Those who can receive it will be blessed. Those who cannot receive it will suffer loss.

Gen 12:2-3

I will make you a great nation; I will bless you
And make your name great; And you shall be a
blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you, And I will
curse him who curses you; And in you all the
families of the earth shall be blessed."

Esau could have blessed his brother. Instead he cursed him and hated him. All Jew haters are cursed. God has pre-determined that He would bless all mankind THROUGH ABRAHAM, ISAAC AND JACOB. God gave the world's greatest promises and covenants to Israel. But the good news is that God has planned to graft those who are not part of Israel into the tree that is Israel. This is so they can share in Israel's blessed hope. (There will be more on this subject in a later chapter). That is just how God has chosen to do it. Now we can resist or trust.

Sha'ul (Apostle Paul) spoke to these same things in powerfully encouraging language.

Rom 8:28-30

8 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Here we see the pattern of Salvation being revealed. God foreknew us (knew us in advance from before time began). Some were pre-determined to be firstborn, firstfruits. Others were pre-determined to be called at a later date. Not all children can be firstborn, but all children are loved by God. All are foreknown. Those foreknown, Paul says are “predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son.” We will be conformed to the image of His Son in due time. Just because our calling was preordained, does not mean our response has been predetermined. Sometimes God needs to be convincing like He was with Jonah. Jonah, in essence, told God “no.” Then God set out to change Jonah’s mind – to convince him. God can be very convincing!

God is the potter, we are the clay. We can be stiff, hard and stubborn clay or we can be soft and malleable in God's strong loving hands. More force must be used to form dried, hard and stiff clay into something beautiful. That's why Paul said the Potter makes some as vessels of mercy, some not (Rom 9:21 – 24).

Sometimes, the potter would first have to trod down or dash the clay into pieces, so he could re-soften it and start over (Isa 41:25, Jer 18:1 – 6). God is the potter. We are the work of His hands. Are we malleable?

So, one must wonder, what has been the state of the living souls of men for all those millions or billions of years? What about our souls before the days arrived that God fashioned for them and before the physical bodies that God gave us to temporarily live in?

