

DESTINY
Romans 8:29
By Raymond White

Let's not haggle about the fine nuanced differences between predestination and foreordination, let's just tackle the simpler word "destiny" which people are a little more comfortable with, and see what the Bible has to say about destiny and that sort of thing.

***Job 7:1** Is there not an appointed time to man upon earth?*

***Job 14:5** Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass.*

***Proverbs 16:33** The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD.*

You might think it's all luck, a crap-shoot, life and how it all turns out. But it's not. At least not according to the Bible It all happens as God wants.

***Proverbs 21:1** The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.*

This doesn't leave much room free agency, if God is controlling us like puppets.

***John 6:65** And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.*

***Acts 2:23** Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:*

***Acts 4:25** Why did the heathen rage? :28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.*

Sounds like predestination to me. Herod and Pilate and the rest did what they did because God wanted them to.

***Acts 13:48** ...and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.*

***Romans 8:29** For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate...:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called...*

***Romans 9:18** Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.*

***Romans 9:22** What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power know, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction.*

The “what if” means that this is a supposition, a theory, a possibility, “maybe it’s like this.” That casts this whole pre-destination thing into doubt. Paul is offering his explanation of how things might be, not how they necessarily are. In other words, “consider the possibility that...”

Romans 11:7 *What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded. :8* (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day.

Sounds like predestination to me. God did the blinding, where’s the agency? The way to mitigate this is to point to:

Romans 11:15 *For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead? :16* For if the firstfruit be hold, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches.

To put it all together, you must accept that God has a right to blind the Jews if he wants, that’s his prerogative, and he had a reason to do it (namely, to save the Gentiles). But also understand that he then rescues the Jews, all of them, by grace, pronouncing them holy. So he’s a merciful and loving God after all.

Jude 1:4 *...who were before of old ordained to this condemnation...*

Revelation 13:8 *...whose names are not written in the book of life of the lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

Revelation 17:8 *...whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world...*

Of course there are lots of free agency verses all over the Bible and they should be studied. But that doesn’t mean that we should gloss by these Destiny verses.