

PREDESTINED



“Where did I come from?” says the four-year-old as he and his mother are having lunch.

She smiles and says, “You came from me.”

The child frowns.

So his mother tries again. “You came from God.”

To her amazement the child is satisfied.

But his mother wonders, what does that mean, “You came from God.”?

“Did I come from God?” she asks herself.

“Did God know me before I was born? Did God destin me to be here in this place, to have this child?”

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. He destined us in love to be his sons and daughters through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will. (Ephesians 1)

If we came from God, if God destined us in love, does this mean that we were predestined?

We were indeed predestined---

---in love---

---to be God’s own.



All of us!

The whole human race!

“Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1)

“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth (on the cross) will draw all people to myself.” (John 12)



Predestined by God before the foundation of the world---

---to be delivered from sin, to be transformed into new creatures!

But the God who predestined us also gave us a free will.

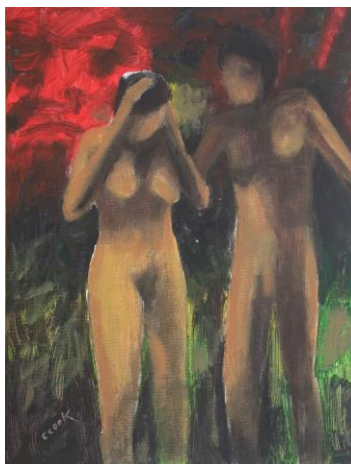
Each of us is free to live our God-given destiny, or to go our own way.

Adam and Eve were destined to live with joy under the eye of God's love. They were destined to be sustained by fruit from the Tree of Life.

They were also forbidden by God to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil---meaning they were given a free will.

They were free to defy God, if they chose.

So they abandoned their destiny and chose the way of death.



The Promised Land was Israel's destiny. It was theirs forever, provided they walked in the way of the Lord.

A forever destiny!

They were also free to defy their destiny.

The Israelites chose to go their own way again and again.

And paid the price again and again.

God has predestined us all to salvation, to a new life, paid for by the Lamb's blood, empowered by the Lamb's resurrection Spirit.

We are also free to walk away.

And many do.

“Many are called, but few are chosen.”

(Matthew 22)

Many are predestined to come to the Banquet.

But when the Master says, “Come for all is now ready!” few respond.

To each of us God has assigned a magnificent destiny.

Our destiny is to live in God's world forever.

The Lamb of God, in a mystery beyond comprehension, has atoned for our sins by his own blood.

Sooner or later, by the power of his cross, Jesus draws us to himself, and says,

“Follow me, and you will never again have to walk in darkness.”



Will we live the destiny God gave us?

Or will we create our own?

Prayer: Dear Lord, help us sense the absolute blessing and joy of being called your own, knowing how deeply you love us. May we choose to dwell in the depth of that love. May we perceive, welcome, and seek this magnificent destiny you offer us. Help us to follow you into this destiny. And Lord, forgive us when we turn away from it, when we foolishly try to create a destiny away from you, without you, without your loving guidance, presence, and touch in our lives. Have mercy on us, keep calling us back until we are transformed into new creatures, into the destiny you planned for us...filled with your light, joy, peace, and love. Amen.

Message: Richard E. Bieber August 2021 Book 74

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