

The Remnant

*“Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.”
Romans 11.5*

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Simple Foreknowledge Proves Predestination

by Dale Brown

I preface this brief summary by saying that I will endeavor to present these truths (as I am enabled) as well as I know how. I believe that his Grace is all sufficient and that if it be HIS will, I pray that something may be gleaned from it. The subject of Predestination is one that scares some, and emboldens others. It will edify some and enrage others. It can be a source of comfort for some, and can take others right out of their comfort zone.

Predestination is clearly a Bible doctrine. Now, some will immediately object and declare that the term only appears in the King James Bible four times, and they are right! Well, kind of. Let me explain: First, the word **Predestination** to my knowledge does NOT appear at all. Here is what most opponents speak of, though:

the word **predestinate** appears twice:

1. Romans 8:29 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.

2. Romans 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom

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he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

the word **predestinated** appears twice:

1. Ephesians 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

2. Ephesians 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

To this end, the opponents declare that predestination is not a Bible doctrine. Others who are willing to admit that it is in fact taught in the Bible will only concede to a “Limited Predestination,” thereby limiting how much

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Sovereignty Jehovah actually exercises over the affairs of this low ground of sin and sorrow and his subjects therein.

Even though the statement about the four occurrences is true, they are **not**, by any means, the only places that the doctrine of Predestination is taught. Nor are they the only places that have words that mean "Predestination."

Within the pages of Holy Writ there are many words and phrases used to express this great doctrine. Some of the words might include "God hath before ordained," "ordained," "Before of old ordained," "Election," "Written before the foundation of the world," "appointed," "foreknowledge," *etc.*

DIVINE ATTRIBUTES

The first place to start would be to examine the attributes of God. Although the Great I Am has many wonderful attributes I believe that there are four that will support all the others. Those four are as follows:

1. **God's Omniscience:** This simply means that God knows EVERYTHING that there is to know, PERIOD. He cannot learn more tomorrow than he knows today. If he can learn as time progresses, then there was a time when he had less than perfect knowledge, and by default he wasn't always omniscient. That is terrible blasphemy and WE KNOW that is untrue. Therefore, GOD KNOWS ALL, PERIOD.

2. **God's Omnipresence:** Again, this simply means that God is all present; in other words, HE IS EVERYWHERE AT ALL TIMES, PAST, PRESENT or FUTURE. God created time. It is one of his creations. He lives outside of time. Humans are slaves to time, and are bound by it, but God is in no way bound by time. The Garden of Eden, the

Exodus, the crucifixion, the present day, and yes, even the future are right before him. He does not have to race back in time to observe history, neither does he have to look forward in order to see time. GOD is outside of time. Past, present and future are all present to him. Therefore GOD is everywhere at all times in all ages.

3. **God's Omnipotence:** This attribute means that he is ALL powerful. Nothing is more powerful than He. Nothing can thwart His purpose. Nothing is stronger than He. Everything is beneath him. Everything is in his control. Nothing ever happens that he does not allow or suffer to happen. If one little event escaped His attention or control then he would not be Omnipotent. AND WE KNOW THAT IS NOT THE CASE. Therefore, God is ALL powerful, nothing can stop Him, and nothing slips by Him, and nothing happens that is not part of his Divine unswerving purpose. God does not have to drop back and punt, nor does he have to resort to a plan "b."

4. **God's Immutability:** The Immutability of God means that he never changes. He is always the same. Through the eons of time he has never changed. He has never grown old. He has never changed his mind. What he purposed yesterday is still the same purpose today. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever more.

He has an unswerving purpose that has never been altered or changed by man, angels, devils, or beasts. His counsel is eternal. As he thought, at the same time he purposed. And at the same time he purposed a thing, it has surely come to pass EXACTLY as He purposed. There is no introspection with God. God does not "bounce an idea around in his head" or even "consider" a thought. His knowledge is perfect. There are no guesses with

God. There are no conjectures with God. Because God KNOWS ALL, he cannot Change and has no reason to. He is perfect in all his ways, PERIOD.

THE ETERNAL COVENANT

Long, long, long ago, before there ever was a material universe, before there ever were any elements, before an angel's wing ever moved in the ethereal, God was alone with his thought. God's eternal thought is still unfolding today, humanly speaking. Yet it is ALL present to him. Nothing is hidden from him. Everything is naked before his ALL seeing eye.

God the Father, God the Spirit, and God the Son made a covenant concerning mankind before there was a single human created. This Covenant is often referred to as the "Eternal Covenant" or the "Everlasting Covenant." God the Father agreed to save a vast number of human rebels that no man can number and give them to God the Son. God the Son agreed to purchase them in time on Calvary and fellowship with them in Eternity. Christ would be the firstborn among many brethren. So, God the Son, would be the propitiation for the elect's transgressions against The Godhead. He would actually completely satisfy their sin debt in time on the cross. And in turn, God the Spirit agreed to quicken and draw them into a living vital union with the Son as well as lead and comfort the elect in this plane we call "time."

This Eternal Covenant between the three aspects of the Godhead took place BEFORE THERE WAS EVER A HUMAN CREATED. BEFORE THERE WAS EVEN AN EARTH.

Those whom God chose to redeem, the Bible calls *the elect*. Before the world was

ever made, God wrote all the names of the elect in the Lamb's Book Of Life.

So without going any farther, one can easily see that, in order for this Covenant to come to pass, certain events must eventually take place in time, such as:

1. Creation
2. Entrance of the Serpent in the Garden of Eden
3. Temptation
4. Actual transgression against God's one command
5. The fall of Adam resulting in spiritual death at that moment, and then physical death later as a result

If THOSE things had not happened, then there would have never been THESE things:

1. Salvation from Sin
2. Jesus being born in time to walk the earth and teach man the things of God
3. The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus
4. Christ's Victory over death, hell, and the grave
5. The ultimate Glorification of Christ himself

So, therefore, the Fall of man was a necessary component in the Eternal Covenant of the Godhead.

This does NOT make God the author of sin. Rather, God is the first cause of all causes and God's purpose from the beginning is to Glorify Himself through JESUS CHRIST. He is the potter, we are the clay. We have no right to question this, because:

"...all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" (Daniel 4:35)

"The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand." (Isaiah 14:24)

"I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him. That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past." (Ecclesiastes 3:14-15)

Because:

"....For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." (1 John 3:8)

Why was the son of God manifested? Answer: That he might destroy the works of the devil.

How can there be works of the devil to destroy if sin had not entered into the world? Had sin not entered into the world then there would be no purpose for Christ to manifest himself. There would be no death and Hell to have victory over. And, there would be no enemies for Christ to crush beneath his feet on the Day of the Lord.

The works of the devil will one day provide a dark backdrop to the brightness of the second advent of Jesus Christ. Just as a luminous diamond glistens in contrast to the black velvet cloth on which it is laid, so too will Christ shine in all his Glory against the backdrop of the works of the devil in the day of the LORD.

"The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil." (Proverbs 16:4)

"Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy." (Isaiah 44:12)

To Deny Absolute predestination is to deny Christ ALL the glory that is due only him!

If this somehow angers or enrages the flesh, listen to Scripture:

Christ said: "Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?" (Matthew 20:15)

"What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth. Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will? Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?" (Romans 9:14-21)

Yes, the Eternal Covenant is indeed a deep counsel of God, far beyond human understanding. But, the Lord has revealed many things to those He has given eyes to see because:

"The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law." (Deuteronomy 29:29)

This brings us to the subject matter at hand: Simple Foreknowledge proves Predestination.

If we refer back to the four attributes of God (pages 2-3, above), which surely no one but an infidel would deny, we see that:

1. God Knows Everything
2. God is everywhere at all times: past, present, or future.
3. God is ALL powerful.
4. God never changes.

Those who deny Absolute predestination will say that God's foreknowledge is the key. Foreknowledge is a biblical concept. They say God simply looked into the future to see what would come to pass, and then planned history around it. The one glaring problem with this theory is that they say God looked into the future to learn something. Blasphemy! God cannot learn ANYTHING because God is already perfect in knowledge.

It is absolutely vital to make a crucial distinction at this point: These truths presented thus far, are in NO WAY intended to imply that God's mere prescience or foresight determined whatsoever cometh to pass. This devilish manmade theory would make the Great I AM a student and man the teacher. Yes, this man-honoring system would have the creature as the director of history, and the Creator as the recipient of knowledge who must constantly change his purpose to accommodate the fickle tastes and decisions of man. This doctrine reduces our LORD to nothing more than a figurehead in Heaven who has a will, but possesses no real power to bring his will to pass.

This is truly a doctrine of devils.. But yet, this is precisely what all Arminian freewill systems embrace.

No, God did NOT look into the future to look and learn what man's "free will" decisions would be, and then plan history around them. But rather, God is the first cause

of all causes, “Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.” (Isaiah 46:10-11)

Notice the above scripture declares that it is GOD’s counsel, and that God will be the one to cause both man and beast alike to bring to pass all of God’s pleasure.

No, He didn’t look and learn. It’s something MUCH, MUCH deeper than that, and it is centered around his eternal purpose which is unswerving and cannot be thwarted by man.

Regarding predestination, let’s look at a few examples:

“For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.” (Acts 4:27-28)

So Herod, and Pontius Pilate with the gentiles, and the people of Israel were gathered together to do what? Answer: **to do whatsoever God’s hand and His counsel determined before to be done; predestination, plain and simple!**

Again:

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

Jesus was delivered by the determinate counsel AND foreknowledge of God. You see here that the determinate counsel AND foreknowledge of God work hand in glove.

They are closely linked but ARE NOT the same! PREDESTINATION! And this predestination clearly involved wicked hands and a truly wicked act!

Jesus many times told the Jews and Romans that they would have NO POWER over him AT ALL unless it were given unto them. Who gave it to them? I think we surely recognize that God Almighty did! Jesus’ crucifixion was predestinated before the world began and evil men unknowingly played a part in it. They were driven by lust, greed, anger, and jealousy but God meant it for good. God was NOT the author of their sin, but rather the director of all the history of mankind, including this occasion.

“The king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.” (Proverbs 21:1)

Another example is Joseph of the Old Testament. Joseph was thrown into a pit by his brothers and then sold into slavery. This was truly an evil act! Later, Joseph became affluent in Egypt and had considerable power. Then, a famine came across the land. Joseph’s wicked brothers began to starve. Without knowing that Joseph had become powerful in Egypt, they journeyed there to try to get food. Joseph took mercy and fed them. Coincidence? HARDLY! Listen to what the Scriptures teach: “And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.” (Genesis 50:19-20)

Joseph’s brothers did not think at all they were doing the will of God because they hid what they had done from their father who was surely one of God’s elect. But God’s purpose involved these men’s wicked acts. They were

driven by the devil, but the great Jehovah directed the overall story to bring much good to pass.

“The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.” (Proverbs 16:1)

“The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.” (Proverbs 16:4)

“A man’s heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.” (Proverbs 16:9)

So then, when considering the four wonderful attributes of the thrice Holy Lord God, we are left with inescapable conclusions:

If God has foreseen what will come to pass, is He correct in what He has seen? **ABSOLUTELY**, a thousand times, **YES!**

Not only is God 100% correct in what He foresees, the thing or event will happen **EXACTLY** as he has foreseen it.

What He has foreseen will happen **EXACTLY** when, where, how, and with whom He foresaw it. And not one tiny detail will vary.

Does God know exactly when, where, and how we will die? **ABSOLUTELY!** Therefore, we will die on that exact day in that exact way. **NOT** one day early, or one day late, but rather, in the exact day in which He foresaw it.

Yes, every detail, in every minute, of every day, in every age, from the beginning of time until the end of time, it all has been 100% correctly foreseen by the Great I AM.

The pagan goddess of “luck” or “chance” will not alter any of the events no matter how much fallen man deceives himself in the matter. What God has thought will surely come to pass, and what He has seen is surely **EXACTLY** what will happen.

Since God is 100% accurate in what He has foreseen, then it will happen **EXACTLY** as He has foreseen it.

Simple Foreknowledge proves predestination.

To Christ be all the honor and praise and glory forever, and ever, Amen.

In that blessed hope that is both sure and steadfast and is an anchor to the soul (Hebrews 6:19). —Brother Dale Brown

**A READER’S QUESTIONS:
THE PROMISES TO ABRAHAM
AND ISRAEL—FOR EVER,
OR JUST FOR A LONG TIME?**

by a reader and C. C. Morris

A couple years ago, I got a nice letter from one of our readers.

I replied, in part:

Dear Pastor _____,

Thank you for your email questions dated 17 Aug 2014. I have put in several hours trying to give your thoughts an adequate reply, and my answer has already run into six pages.

Since your questions are of general interest and reflect questions other readers have expressed, I hope to print your email and my reply to it in *The Remnant*. I hope you find this to be satisfactory. It is often as easy to write an article for the entire readership as it is to answer one letter. That is what I propose to do here—answer in an article in *The Remnant* in the near future.

In that blessed hope,

CC [edited for publication]

The pastor wrote back:

Dear Bro. Morris,

Thanks for your reply. It is satisfactory with me that you will answer my questions in a future issue of THE REMNANT. I have no objection to you mentioning my name in the issue, if you desire.

*

Dear Brother,

Usually, unless there is a specific need to mention names of correspondents, I usually don't. There are exceptions when a correspondent has gone public and I must name names. Also, sometimes some correspondents might be offended or embarrassed because of something I've said or how I've said it, or someone might take something personally in a way I did not intend. So, to protect you and others, I will usually continue omitting names, confining my remarks to the biblical issues rather than to persons and personalities. I try never to allow personalities to be the issue: nothing personal; only the addressing of doctrinal positions. But sometimes people mistake a strong doctrinal statement for a personal attack. It is never my intent to hurt anyone's feelings, but sometimes it happens. I hope you understand. Maybe I'm overly sensitive about these things, but I really do want to get through this life causing the least trouble possible.

CC

*

At long last I will try to address this brother's concerns.

THE ORIGINAL E-MAIL LETTER:

Sun, Aug 17, 2014

Bro. Morris,

In the May-June 2014 issue of THE REMNANT which contains an article that you wrote

entitled "Why Ephraim?", you quoted Genesis 12:3, which the Lord in speaking to Abram said "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all the nations of the families of the earth be blessed". In commenting on this verse you stated that the curse applies to those, "whoever they are, who misappropriate the Lord's promises to Israel, misapplying them to the church;. etc. Do you not think your comments are rather harsh?

While you may strongly believe the scriptures teach that God will resume His dealings with the Jewish people and restore them unto their own land, not all Bible students who believe in the verbal inspiration of the scriptures hold to this—your view. It may be that those who differ from you are wrong, but I do not believe that the curse in Genesis 12:3 applies to them, as you stated. In the same article you asked those who say that God is through with national Israel: "Do you understand what for ever means?" Well, I will ask you a question: Cannot "for ever" in the scriptures sometimes signify "a long time" or "any long time"? It appears that it does signify a long period of time in some scriptures (Prov. 29:14 [adah], Daniel 3:9**). It could just as well signify a long period of time when used in Gen 13: 14-17. I felt as though I needed to share some of my thoughts on your article.*

*I have been receiving THE REMNANT for many years and I enjoy reading it. God bless.
Pastor _____.*

(Name withheld by Editor.—CCM)

QUESTIONS, FIRST PART

1. you quoted Genesis 12:3, which the Lord in speaking to Abram said "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that

curseth thee: and in thee shall all the nations of the families of the earth be blessed". In commenting on this verse you stated that the curse applies to those, "whoever they are, who misappropriate the Lord's promises to Israel, misapplying them to the church;. etc. Do you not think your comments are rather harsh?

Reply 1: Perhaps; perhaps not. Is it harsh for God to curse those who curse the children of Abram, Isaac, and Jacob? Was Jehovah harsh in His treatment of Esau, Pharaoh, Haman, and Hitler? Is it harsh for God to say, "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book (Revelation 22.18-19)." Is it harsh for Christ to say, "But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me (Luke 19.27)."?

We live in an age when "Christians" seem to fear resting on "Thus saith the LORD," and unbelievers despise the idea of our doing so. What is the purpose of any man's flying to defend those who despise the "Jews" and would disenfranchise them from their eternal, God-given heritage?

Why is it so important to puny men to insist, **with absolutely no scriptural authority**, that "God is through with national Israel for ever," "The church is now spiritual Israel," and "The Old Testament promises to Israel are now to be applied *spiritually* to the church"? If those points are scriptural, where are the proof texts?

God said, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee (Psalm 122.6)." He put no time limit on that injunction. Praying for Jerusalem is not to be spiritualized or spiritually applied to the church.

There are texts enough in the New Testament to tell us to pray for one another and to pray for the church. We know where Jerusalem is. So does Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Turkey, Russia, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Germany, Al-Qaida, Hamas, ISIL, ISIS, and the USA.

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122.6)." In so doing you are praying for nothing short of the second advent of the Lord Jesus Christ, the return of the Prince of Peace, because Jerusalem will never have peace until He returns.

Reply 2: What is so objectionable about God giving a sizeable piece of land to Abraham's descendants? When Christ said in His parable, "Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?" He was illustrating God's prerogative to distribute of His own bounty as He sees fit.

Nor did He consult with anyone other than Himself about this or anything else. God never gave an unconditional and eternal land grant to any other nation—not England or China, Italy or France, Egypt or the USA; but He did give such a grant to Israel.

QUESTIONS, SECOND PART

While you may strongly believe the scriptures teach that God will resume His dealings with the Jewish people and restore them unto their own land, not all Bible students who believe in the verbal inspiration of the scriptures hold to this—your view.

Reply: 1. That is their privilege. It is my privilege to disagree with them and ask them for their proof texts. I have furnished mine.

2. The preconceived anti-Israel sentiments of the “Bible students” you mention is one of the major problems facing the USA today. Few such “Bible students” and few political leaders realize this nation is reaping exactly what it is sowing. Millions of Americans complain about the influx of illegal alien nationals invading our land, mainly along our southern border. Few know God is paying this nation back in kind: for years our national policy toward Israel has been a “two state solution”; the political doctrine is: *“Tear down Israel’s walls. Israel must extend an open border policy toward the enemies who daily lob mortar shells and missiles into Israel. Israel must welcome with open arms terrorists who knife to death elderly Jewish women waiting at bus stops.”*

We are led to believe the USA’s border problem is a straggling few Mexicans wanting to work in our orchards and send their paychecks home to Mama. It is nothing of the sort; today’s news reported there are *waves* of illegals not only from Central America, but from the Muslim world, Romania, China, and other countries who wish no good to come upon the USA they hate. Our complaints against drug cartels, violent gangs, rapists, and murderers sneaking in, and terrorist training camps being formed throughout our country all fall on willfully deaf Washington ears. Those who so complain are painted as bigots and extremists guilty of “hate crimes” and they are threatened with prison. I dare say all this is the direct payback for our nation’s policy of pushing for the same things on Israel. Israel is not perfect, but neither is anyone else. “And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people(s): **all that burden**

themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it (Zechariah 12.3).”

QUESTIONS, THIRD PART

It may be that those who differ from you are wrong, but I do not believe that the curse in Genesis 12:3 applies to them, as you stated.

Reply: And again, that is your privilege. Please know I do not hold that against you, as others who hold it against me for my simply quoting Scriptures and expressing my understanding of them. I ask them or anyone: Is this a one-way street or a two-way street? May they express their thoughts while I may not express mine?

Why may a “Primitive Baptist” preach Roman Catholic amillennialism with impunity while he rails against a literal understanding of Luke 1.32f: “**(1) He shall be great, and (2) shall be called the Son of the Highest: and (3) the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: and (4) He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and (5) of His kingdom there shall be no end**”? How is it that all would agree that He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest, but arbitrarily say **the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: and He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever** must be *figurative* and *spiritualized* into something it is plainly **not**? O Consistency! Thou art a jewel!

Satan does not approach you or me and say (immediately), “Let’s go get drunk and have some fun.” He is subtle and says, “**Yea, hath God said...?**” He does not say (immediately), “Curse Abraham and the Jews.” But he raises questions that lead to perverting unconditional promises into Conditionalism:

“God will only bless the Jews IF they repent, believe, confess....” say they, like any other Arminian-at-heart. From there it is an easy step to say that by rejecting her Messiah, Israel has sinned away her day of grace and forfeited Jehovah’s promises to Abraham’s nation. I would remind such Conditionalists, “...he that believeth not God hath made him a liar (1 John 5.10).”

You no doubt realize that Abraham in his lifetime never owned a square foot of the Promised Land except the parcel of land containing the cave of Machpelah, which he purchased for a burial-place for Sarah from Ephron, the son of Zohar (Genesis 23).

The only time and way Abraham will ever inherit the promised land will be in the resurrection during Christ’s millennial reign and from then on into eternity (“for ever”). “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth (Hebrews 11.13).”

QUESTIONS, FOURTH PART

In the same article you asked those who say that God is through with national Israel: “Do you understand what for ever means?” Well, I will ask you a question: Cannot “for ever” in the scriptures sometimes signify “a long time” or “any long time”? It appears that it does signify a long period of time in some scriptures (Prov. 29:14, Daniel 3:9). It could just as well signify a long period of time when used in Gen 13: 14-17.

Reply 1: Even if your suggestion is true, and “for ever” in the Scriptures sometimes signifies “a long time,” that in no way robs the phrase of its plain meaning in other

instances. “For ever” cannot always mean only “a long time,” or else words have no definition and language has no meaning.

Reply 2: Let us examine your two Scriptures and compare them with God’s use of the words “for ever” in Genesis 13.14-17:

(a) *“The king that faithfully judgeth the poor, his throne shall be established for ever [Hebrew, ‘ad from ‘adah, to advance, i.e. pass on or continue] (Proverbs 29.14).”* Suppose we “spiritualize” this text, as many urge us to do, and apply it to Christ (Don’t they tell us to “see Christ on every page and in every Scripture?”). Will Christ not faithfully judge the poor, and will not His throne be established for ever—eternally? Or will He reign as King of kings and Lord of lords merely **for a long time**? As to the first, His faithfully judging the poor: “But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked (Isaiah 11.4).” As for the second, His throne being established for ever: “Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be **no end**, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever (Isaiah 9.7).” What is the difference between **no end** and **for a long time**? To defer to you, a long time implies that the “long time” will end.

“Thy throne, O God, is **for ever and ever**: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre (Psalm 45.6).” “But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is **for ever and ever** (Hebrews 1.8).” What is the difference between a long time, and “**for ever**,” and “**for ever and ever**”?

The “replacement theology” idea that the church has replaced Israel and “God is through with national Israel for ever,” raises an interesting question: Do the “replacement theologians” mean that God is through with national Israel **for ever**, or do they merely mean God is through with national Israel **for a very long time**? If only for a very long time, then Israel will be restored. If not, then why not say, “...upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even **for a very long time**,” and “**Thy throne, O God, is for a very long time**”? It is the same Hebrew word. Is that all there is to these texts?

Again, if God is through with national Israel for ever, and now the church is “spiritual Israel” (a term found nowhere in the Bible), will there come a time when God is through with *spiritual Israel*, the church? Will He abandon the church, *spiritual Israel*, for ever, like He abandoned national Israel? If not, why not? Why would He abandon *national Israel* for ever and not also abandon *spiritual Israel* forever, when we are so often told that national Israel is a type or figure of the church? If He does not abandon the church forever, then the type and the antitype no longer match, and replacement theology is again hoisted on its own petard.

Again: Are we Gentile church-members somehow a better class of sinners than Israel, yes or no, that He rejects national Israel but not us? But if He must indeed abandon the church, what becomes of our hope in Christ?

(b) The second text: “*They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever [‘alam, (Chaldean, Strong’s #5957, corresponding to Hebrew #5769), remote time, i.e. the future or past indefinitely, often*

adverbially forever] (Daniel 3.9).” This was a common idiom of that day, used to flatter the king, and nothing more. The phrase “O King, live for ever,” or almost the same wording, occurs seven times in the Bible. No one lives forever in this life, and everyone knew it, including the kings; but all the kings loved such flummery.

(c) “And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed **for ever** [Hebrew, ‘*owlam*, Strong’s #5769]. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee (Genesis 13.14-17).” To this we add what Jacob told Joseph: “And Jacob said unto Joseph, God Almighty appeared unto me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me, and said unto me, Behold, I will make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, and I will make of thee a multitude of people; and will give this land to thy seed after thee for **an everlasting** [‘*owlam*] **possession** (Genesis 48.3f).”

(d) You mentioned the Hebrew word *adah* in Proverbs 29.14, “The king that faithfully judgeth the poor, his throne shall be established **for ever**.” Dr. Strong says the word (#5703) means eternity, in perpetuity, world without end (I have no help here for those who believe the earth will be destroyed and end). Jesus Christ is THE King that faithfully judges the poor His throne shall be established for ever, world without end, in perpetuity, eternally.

You also mentioned the Chaldean term *'alam*. The Chaldean *'alam* (#5957), Dr. Strong says, means everlasting, or adverbially, forever; and it corresponds to the Hebrew *'owlam* (#5769), which means everlasting, eternal, *etc.*

Twice in the OT God is called “The Everlasting God: In Genesis 21.33, where Abraham called upon *El Owlam*, the Everlasting God; and in Isaiah 40.28: “Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God (*El Owlam*), the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.”

Also, consider, “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting [*'owlam*] to everlasting [*'owlam*], thou art God (Psalm 90.2).” “Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting [*'owlam*] to everlasting [*'owlam*]: and let all the people say, Amen. Praise ye the LORD (Psalm 106.48).”

And in Romans 16.26 Paul calls God “the everlasting God.” The *aionios* God. *aionios* is plural for *aion*, or (“eon”) and means unto the ages of the ages—eternal.

Are we to understand from these texts that God will only last “a long time”?

* *

CONCLUSION

I felt as though I needed to share some of my thoughts on your article. I have been receiving THE REMNANT for many years and I enjoy reading it. God bless. Pastor _____.

Reply: Thank you for sharing your thoughts. I appreciate your candor and your kind remarks. Should you disagree with my comments, as I said earlier, that is your privilege. Search the Scriptures daily, whether these things be so. Be fully persuaded in your

own mind (Romans 14.5), certain as possible that what you believe is solidly rooted in the Scriptures of truth and the truth of the Scriptures. I hope you can continue reading and enjoying *The Remnant* as long as we are blessed to continue this labor of love. Please remember me before the Throne of Grace when we are called to mind. —CCM

ABOUT THE DELAY—THIS TIME

I had every intention and hope of getting this issue of the magazine to the printer a month or two ago.

Then, on Friday, April 29, 2016, a thunderstorm accompanied by tornados passed through our area. Violent winds broke the tops out of several large oaks and snapped a few pines, but we saw no evidence any tornado touched down on our land. The tornado did major damage to a community about four miles east of us but not to our place.

The thunderstorm continued. That night, about midnight, a bolt of lightning hit close to our home. You might as well say we took a direct hit. The thunder with that lightning was so loud it sounded as if we had been bombed.

Two electrical circuits were destroyed; one to the garage, the other to my office where my computer, on which I produce *The Remnant*, were destroyed. The cover to the land-line telephone’s junction box, on the riser on the outside of the house, was broken and blown off, ending up in the middle of the yard.

The only other damage we have found is that one of the idiot-lights on our electric range no longer lights up when it is supposed to.

We got the telephone fixed the following Monday. It took several days longer to get an electrician out. The storm left over 12,000

people without electricity. Electricians were in high demand. When he came, he found two circuit-breakers burned out. When they were replaced, we again had power to the garage and office.

I checked my computer as soon as I could. It would not come on. A quick trip to the repair shop revealed that the A:drive was destroyed, scorched black, and its cable had literally been blown off its connection. All the USB ports had been fried. Ruined, as was my paper shredder, which was plugged into the damaged circuit.

Miraculously, by the grace of Almighty God, the two hard disks (on which all *The Remnant* materials and programs were stored) were slightly damaged but recoverable! My backup drives were providentially unplugged from the USB ports. Had they been connected, no doubt (by all human reasoning) they would have been destroyed. And had I lost the computer and the backup files, *The Remnant* would be no more.

Within a week or so I had a new computer, and *The Remnant* was “back in business.”

Some, who do not believe as we do, might ask: “If your God is so powerful, why didn’t He just keep the lightning from striking and doing all that damage?”

I do not know why the Lord does many things He does in His wisdom, His providence and His sovereign grace. I cannot answer for Him. “*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heav-*

ens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts (Isaiah 55.8f).”

But it does occur to me that sometimes He shows us how weak, helpless, and sinful we are, how utterly dependent we are upon Him, and what a gracious and merciful God He truly is. We are unspeakably thankful to Him for all He has done for us and His preserving *The Remnant* and enabling us to continue. Above all, Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Please remember us in your prayers when we are called to mind. —CCM

SOUTH OUACHITA ASSOCIATION

Lord Willing, the South Ouachita Association in north central Louisiana will meet on the fifth Sunday in October and the Saturday before. The dates are October 29 & 30, 2016. The meeting will be held with Union Primitive Baptist Church. The Union meeting house is located about five miles south-east of Marion, LA, off Highway 143. Turn on Alabama Landing Road at the Union Church sign and watch for Union Church Road, off to the right; turn right, by the water tower. The church-house is on the left a short distance down this road.

All lovers of the truth are welcome.

C. C. Morris, Moderator
Sister Patsy Lankford, Clerk

BUTTAHATCHIE-HOPEWELL ASSOCIATION

Lord willing, the Buttahatchie-Hopewell Association will meet the third Sunday and Saturday before in October. The dates are October 15 & 16, 2016. The meeting will be held with Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church, Pickens Co. Alabama. The church is located on Hwy. 159 between Gordo and Fayette Alabama.

Bro. Kenneth Evans, Moderator
Elder James Pugh, Clerk

SISTER LAURA RICHARDS

Saints Rest Church in Dallas, Texas, along with our brethren and friends in the faith, were saddened at the loss of Sister Richards in a tragic automobile wreck on March 25, 2016. She departed from this life on March 29.

Sister Laura was a kind and loving member of our church. Through the years she participated in our meetings as much as possible when not otherwise hindered. She always cooked for our special meetings and often gave thoughtful gifts to others. She has left a vacancy in our little church that can never be filled.

After her funeral, her mortal bodily remains were transported to Louisiana and buried near her beloved parents, there to await the resurrection at the return of her Lord.

Sister Laura was the wife of Brother Frank Richards, who is our church's Treasurer and Clerk. He also manages the funds for *The Remnant Publications*. He has graciously asked that in lieu of flowers, please make donations to *The Remnant* in Sister Laura's name.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM BROTHER HOYT SPARKS ABOUT ELDER BEEBE'S EDITORIALS, VOLUME #1

Brother Hoyt Sparks has sent the following notice to our readers:

Jan 16, 2016

Elder Morris:

I have Elder Beebe's Volume #1, with a Topical Index for all 7 volumes, along with other articles on my computer. I have been copying these onto CDs that I give away to anyone wanting one...For anyone ordering ANY book(s) from you, I will include this CD at no cost.

Those who have Elder Beebe's volumes #2 through #7 and wish to have Volume #1 that is on my CD, and they do not intend to place an order with you, I will furnish one to them for \$2.00 to cover the postage. (For orders outside the USA, please add another \$2.00 for additional postage.)

God bless,

Hoyt D. F. Sparks, SL

Order all books as usual, from The Remnant, PO Box 1004, Hawkins, Texas 75765-1004.

For those ordering ONLY the \$2.00 CD from Brother Sparks, please order directly from him. His address is:

Hoyt D. F. Sparks

486 Choate Dairy Road

Sparta, NC 28675-9249

(Home phone: 336 372 6289)

(Cell phone: 703 615 0071)

(Email: hoytsparks@hotmail.com)

HALF PRICE SALE ON ALL WELSH TRACT PUBLICATIONS BOOKS

1. This sale is in effect immediately, until our supplies are exhausted or until further notice.

NO LARGE QUANTITIES OR BULK ORDERS AT THESE PRICES.

2. **COMPLETE SETS OF ELDER BEEBE'S EDITORIALS ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE. WE ARE SOLD OUT OF VOLUME 1. VOLUMES 2-7 ARE STILL AVAILABLE.** Individual Volumes 2-7 of Elder Beebe's Editorials, while they last, will be \$10.00 each, plus \$3.00 shipping per volume; \$13.00 each, postpaid.

3. Other books may be purchased at half price each, plus \$3.00 shipping per book, as follows:

The Select Works of Elder Samuel Trott: Formerly \$20 plus \$3.00 postage, now \$13.00 postpaid.

The Christ-Man in Type, by David Bartley: Formerly \$8 plus \$3.00 postage, now \$7.00 postpaid.

Feast of Fat Things: Formerly \$7 plus \$3.00 postage, now \$6.50 postpaid.

The Trial of Job, by Elder Silas Durand: Formerly \$14 plus \$3.00 postage, now \$10.00 postpaid.

4. **PLEASE NOTE:** This sale applies **ONLY** to the Welsh Tract Publications books indicated above and in the chart on page 17. It does **NOT** apply to the other books (**Pagan Festivals of Christmas and Easter** by Shaun Willcock, which is still \$10.00 postpaid, and **Absolute Predestination** by Jerome Zanchius, which is still \$9.00 postpaid).

We must ask \$3.00 *per Welsh Tract Publication books* for mailing costs, no exceptions. The chart on page 17 summarizes our sale prices.

This is an excellent opportunity to round out your library or to buy extra copies of these historic books for loaning or for gifts.

While they last, please consider buying these valuable books for donating to public libraries (church, city, county, state, or college libraries).

Texas residents please add 6.75% State sales tax to all orders. As a favor to Texans, the tax amount has been calculated for you and appears in the far right column of the chart on the next page.

**COMPLETE SETS OF ELDER BEEBE'S EDITORIALS ARE
NO LONGER AVAILABLE.**

**WE ARE SOLD OUT OF VOLUME 1.
SEE PAGE 15 FOR AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!**

VOLUMES 2-7 ARE STILL AVAILABLE.

Individual Volumes 2-7 of Elder Beebe's Editorials may still be ordered while they last.

For pricing see pages 16-17.

Book Title & Author	Old Price incl. postage	Sales Price incl. postage	Sales Tax (Texas only)
Elder Gilbert Beebe Editorials Complete set of 7 volumes—	\$161.00	\$91.00	\$4.73
SORRY! VOLUME 1 IS NO LONGER AVAIL- ABLE.			
THERE ARE NO MORE COMPLETE SETS!			
Beebe, Volume 2	\$23	\$13	0.68
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Beebe, Volume 4	\$23	\$13	0.68
Beebe, Volume 5	\$23	\$13	0.68
Beebe, Volume 6	\$23	\$13	0.68
Beebe, Volume 7	\$23	\$13	0.68
Select Writings of Elder Samuel Trott	\$23	\$13	0.68
Feast of Fat Things	\$10	\$6.50	0.24
Christ-Man in Type, by D. Bartley	\$11	\$7.00	0.27
A Second Feast	\$15	OUT OF STOCK! DISCONTINUED	
The Trial of Job, by Elder Silas Durand	\$17	\$10	0.48

NOTE: Please add \$3.00 per book volume for postage and handling. No exceptions.

Texas residents, please note: The State of Texas has made me an honorary tax collector. I am just as happy to act in this capacity, with no reimbursement of any kind for my services, as you are happy to include the State sales tax with your order. Thank you for understanding.

No telephone orders or credit card orders, please. Send check or money order to:

**THE REMNANT
P.O. BOX 1004
HAWKINS, TX 75765-1004**

BOOKS FROM ELDER STANLEY PHILLIPS NOW AVAILABLE

We have received word from Brother Hoyt Sparks on the availability of the books which Elder Phillips was preparing at the time of his passage from this life:

Monday, Apr 21, 2014, at 12:12 PM

Greetings Elder Morris:

Hope this finds you and yours doing well in the Lord.

I brought the remaining books published by Elder Phillips back with me. Today I finished separating the various books and counted them for inventory; and am ready to accept orders. Below is an announcement for you to please publish in *The Remnant*. I will also announce the books for sale via the Predestinarian email forum....

We have for sale the remainder of the books published by the late Elder Stanley C. Phillips. These books will be sold until the inventory is exhausted, and there will not be additional ones published. Each book will be sold for \$20.00, which includes shipping and handling FOR USA SHIPMENTS ONLY. [*Those ordering from outside the USA should inquire from Brother Sparks about shipping costs before ordering.*—CCM]

Particulars are as follows:

WRITINGS BY ELDER WILSON

THOMPSON: For sale are Volumes II and III. Elder Phillips did not publish a Volume I because he considered the AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF ELDER WILSON THOMPSON to be Volume I. There are nine (9) extra volumes of Volume III, and these may be ordered separate from Volume II. Otherwise, Volumes II and III will be sold only in sets.

WRITINGS BY ELDER WILLIAM

SMOOT: For sale are Volumes I, II and III. There are two (2) extra volumes of Volume II, and one (1) extra volume of Volume III. Otherwise Volumes I, II and III will be sold only in sets.

GOLDEN AGE OF BAPTISTS IN AMERICA 1791—1890: For sale are Volumes I and II, and these will be sold in sets only.

Please send your order with the payment to:

Hoyt Sparks
486 Choate Dairy Road
Sparta, NC 28675-9249

(Home phone: 336 372 6289)

(Cell phone: 703 615 0071)

(Email: hoytsparks@hotmail.com)

All proceeds, after shipping costs, will go to the widow of Elder Phillips, Sister Alma Phillips. Sister Phillips has been a semi-invalid for about 40 years. Her family and friends are making efforts to keep her in the family home for her remaining years, rather than her residing in a nursing home.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

God bless,

Hoyt D. F. Sparks, SL

ISAIAH 66.18-19

...it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory. And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations...to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles.

ELECTRONIC BOOK BY ELDER DAVID K. MATTINGLY

Good news! Elder Mattingly's book, *God's Execution of His Will Concerning Good and Evil Deeds*, is still available for a while longer. Chapter headings include "Evil Deeds," "Good Deeds," "Providential Ways God Controls Mankind's Evils," and "A Brief Look at the Future Concerning Elect and Reprobate Persons." This is some of the finest writing we have seen on the subjects Elder Mattingly addresses.

This book of 65 pages and seven chapters is **only available as an e-mail attachment**. Order it from d.kenneth2@att.net and say "REQUEST FOR BOOK" in the subject line.

BOOK:

"PAGAN FESTIVALS OF CHRISTMAS AND EASTER"

The book, "Pagan Festivals of Christmas and Easter," by Shaun Willcock, is a concise, 64-page booklet on the origins of "religious holidays." It has been appreciated by our readers since we first advertised it. Copies may be ordered from *The Remnant* at

**The Remnant Publications
P. O. Box 1004
Hawkins, TX 75765-1004**

Single copies are **\$10.00 postpaid to the USA; \$17.00 to other countries**. Texas residents please add 6.75% sales tax (48¢) for each copy ordered.

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ABSOLUTE PREDESTINATION by Jerome Zanchius

This is *the* classic work on the doctrine of predestination. Written over 400 years ago, it was translated into English by Augustus M. Toplady. There has never been a serious attempt to refute this book, mainly because it cannot be refuted! Paper cover, 128 pages. **\$9.00 each, postage paid to the USA; \$16.00 to other countries.**

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If your address has changed and you wish to continue receiving *The Remnant*, then please notify us as soon as possible. If you do not furnish us with your new address, including the Zip + 4 designation, your *Remnant* will be returned to us, and we are charged for this service. **If this happens, your name will be dropped from our mailing list without further notice.**

If you no longer wish to receive *The Remnant*, please let us know, and we will remove your name from our mailing list. We appreciate your consideration.

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A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES:

The following is an outline of principles the readers of *The Remnant* may expect to see maintained in this publication. Under no circumstances do the publishers or writers for *The Remnant* seek to delineate herein a standard of doctrine or views to be imposed upon the readers. Rather, we set these principles before the readers that they may know what general principles guide our efforts. All attempts at declaring articles of faith will be marred by prejudices and frailty, and ours are by no means any exception.

We believe these principles are, in the main, harmonious with the articles of faith published by predestinarian associations and churches of the old order of Baptists known as Primitive, Particular, or Old School Baptists the world over.

1—The eternal existence, sovereignty, immutability, omnipotence, and perfections of Jehovah God; He has revealed Himself as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and these sacred Three are One; Jesus Christ was and is God manifest in the flesh, and in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;

2—The Old and New Testaments in their original languages are the verbally inspired word of God, and they are the complete and only valid guide of faith and practice; the King James Version is the preferred English translation;

3—The will of the eternal God is the first cause of all causes;

4—The absolute predestination of all things;

5—The eternal personal election of the redeemed in Christ, before the world began, and their eternal, vital union with Him; their number is fixed, certain, and sure, and can neither be increased nor diminished; their fall in

their federal head Adam into spiritual death, total depravity, and just condemnation; their utter inability to recover themselves from this fallen state;

6—The blood atonement and redemption by Jesus Christ are for the elect only, and are both efficacious and effectual in accomplishing the will and purpose of God to reconcile His people unto Himself;

7—The sovereign, irresistible, effectual work of the Holy Spirit in quickening the elect of God; the new birth is by the direct operation of the Holy Spirit without the use of any means;

8—The final preservation, perseverance, and eternal happiness of all the sons of God, by grace alone;

9—No works are good works other than those which God Himself has so designated; none of the works called good are left up to men to perform or not, at the creature's discretion; nor do the works of the creature, either before or after regeneration, result in merit accruing to his account in God's sight;

10—The peaceable fruits of righteousness are the certain result of God's working in His people both to will and to do of His good pleasure, and His people will be found walking in paths of righteousness for His name's sake;

11—The separation of church and state;

12—The principles outlined in the Black Rock Address of 1832;

13—The bodily resurrection, first of Christ, and also that of all the dead;

14—The final and eternal judgment; and,

15—The bliss of the redeemed and the torment of the wicked are both eternal and everlasting.