

Lesson #2

Destiny is a Journey

Destiny and Predestination

The term “predestination” is mentioned several times in the Bible and speaks of destiny. Some look at this concept and conclude that God has planned every detail of our lives out in advance, even believing that every choice we make was actually planned. Some go so far as to say that whatever happens is God’s will, because it happened!

But that is a misunderstanding of what is meant by predestination. Predestination is simply a pre-planned destination. Whether we choose to go there or not is a different matter. If we are obedient to our calling, we will certainly arrive at the destination God has planned for us. But if we refuse to follow God’s plan for our lives, we will not. It is only as we are “*in Christ*” that our predestination is sure. Notice that Ephesians 1:11 starts with “*In Him...*”

“In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,...”

— Ephesians 1:11 (NKJV)

Starting the Journey

When we surrender to Jesus, we may be “saved”, but it is only the beginning of our journey to learn our full identity in Christ and fulfill our destiny. If there was ever a person on earth who embodied clear identity, security, and purpose, it was Jesus Christ. He faced every temptation that we face, yet He never compromised His purpose or wandered off the path He was on. He was absolutely secure in Himself and confident in fulfilling His destiny. Why? The scripture below reveals why.

Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I bear witness of Myself, **My witness is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going**; but you do not know where I come from and where I am going.

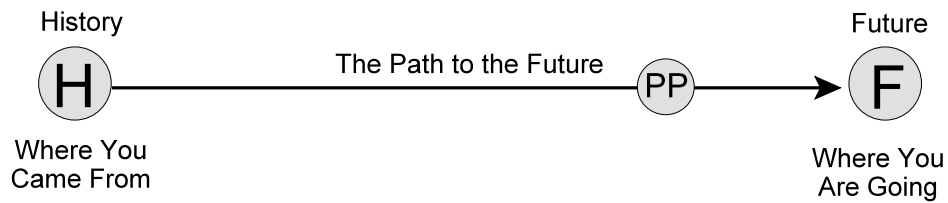
— John 8:14 (NKJV -emphasis added)

We can have the same kind of clarity and purpose that Jesus had, but to have it, we must be anchored in the same principles. *If we want to know who we are; if we want to have a true, confident and clear witness, we must also know where we came from and where we are going.* Therefore, having accurate information about our history and our future enables us to plot a course to our destiny.

Below is a diagram which I will call, *The Destiny Diagram*. It will be modified several times as this study develops. For now, it simply illustrates how a path can be plotted between two points. By establishing where we came from, which is our history (H), and where we are going, which is our future

(F), we can plot a path to the future upon which present plans (pp) operate. Having plotted that course, our present plans (PP) must stay on that course if we wish arrive at our destiny.

Destiny Diagram 1



Strategic Foundations

God has called us to be disciples. As we travel the road of discipleship, there are many teachers, topics and lessons we will study. The sheer volume of the information that is available can sometimes be overwhelming! That is why it is very important to establish a strategic foundation by grasping God's overall plan. This provides a filter we can use to sort through the flood of information that comes our way. The Apostle Paul voiced this concept in his prayer for the Ephesians, praying that they would "...be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height" (Ephesians 3:18 (NKJV)). This "big picture" or overall plan, is a foundation which is laid out in Hebrews 6:1-2, as:

- 1) Repentance from dead works and faith toward God
- 2) Doctrines of baptisms (washings)
- 3) Laying on of hands
- 4) Resurrection of the dead
- 5) Eternal judgment

These five things are more than a list of topics for bible study; they represent a strategic plan that is unfolding along God's time line. As we go through *Destiny 101*, we will add these five foundational to our *Destiny Diagram*. Once this foundation is established, we can then build on it as we gather more knowledge.

This foundation and the framework we build on it becomes an information management system making each piece of information accessible, applicable and functional as a part of the whole. The result is increasing order and discernment in our studies that helps us decide which information is good, how to prioritize it, or whether it should be considered at all.

Food for the Journey

A desire to know our destiny resides in all of us; it is that hunger for meaning and purpose in life. Jesus reveals the kind of food that will satisfy these hunger pangs. He said, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and accomplish His work" (John 4:34 NASB). As we seek to accomplish His will, we will find our place in it and our accomplishments along the way become food that fuels our journey.

General Study Plan

First, based on John 8:14, we will look at where we are going and establish a biblical view of the future by exploring what the Bible says about 4) Resurrection of the dead, and 5) Eternal judgment (from Hebrews 6:1-2). The Bible has some very clear things to say about the future!

Then, again, based on John 8:14, we will study where we came with a historical overview. One might think that history is established and cannot be changed. Though this is true, there are those who attempt to revise history with distortions and outright falsehoods in an attempt to manipulate what people do in the present. We will expose this plan and explore some key historical facts that shape our present plans and ultimately our destination.

The insights gained from the past and the future will help us to understand how 1) Repentance from dead works, 2) Baptisms (washing), and 3) Laying on of Hands form God's strategy unfolding as a brilliant masterpiece being painted on the canvas of time revealing the Kingdom of God on earth.

I pray that God will use Destiny 101 to lay a foundation that will serve as a guide for what God is building in our lives. By applying what we learn in Destiny 101, we will gain a preparation mindset that will shape our present plans and we will join the race that is set before us with new clarity and purpose. Then, we too can say, "My witness is true because I know where I came from and I know where I am going!"