



# WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE

If you think items presented on this site to be in error, please let me know and I will gladly reconsider the content.

## Foreknowledge

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Foreknowledge.

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### Topics.

- An architect, a building, and a mother and her baby.
- Judas, the Jews, and the Romans.
- A little book that was sweet and bitter.

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## AN ARCHITECT, A BUILDING, AND A MOTHER AND HER BABY

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### Christ was Foreknown before the Foundation of the World.

- Christ was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake. (1 Peter 1:20).

Some have mistakenly taken this verse to mean that Jesus was with God before the foundation of the world, but this is reading into the verse more than what Peter is saying. Peter does not say Jesus existed, but that he was foreknown before the foundation of the world, meaning Jesus was the central focus of God's eternal plan, that He purposed in His eternal and divine mind before the world began. It is in this sense that Peter says Jesus was foreknown.

**An architect and a building:** an architect long before a building is constructed plans the entire structure in his mind, he sees every detail of it in vivid clarity long before the builders begin to construct it and long before the workers even set foot on the site where it is to be built.

**A mother and a baby:** an excited expectant mother plans in her mind her baby's room long before the baby is born, she not only sees in her mind the design and colours of that room, but also the lighting, furniture, and clothing long before the child is born. In the same manner, God planned and purposed in his timeless mind that Christ would be the central focus of His sovereign plan for mankind's eternal salvation long before Jesus came into the world.

**OVERVIEW:** it is Christ who was predestined to be the centre of God's plan of salvation. Then it was predestined that those who from their own free will choose to accept all who Jesus proclaimed himself to be, and accept the Gospel will be saved, and receive a predestined inheritance. For further information concerning Jesus' existence before the foundation of the world, see the title:

- Trinity (the Doctrine of the Trinity).
- In, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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## JUDAS, THE JEWS, AND THE ROMANS

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God's eternal foreknowledge is a stunning mystery to the human mind but majestically manifests the wisdom of God who has given mankind free will. Judas, the Jews, and the Romans were acting from their own will.

- The Jews (primarily the religious leaders) acted from prideful envy that Jesus was gathering such enormous crowds and multitudes of followers.

- Judas acted from greed.
- Pilate simply wanted to appease the crowds screaming crucify him.

Yet all these events are spoken of in the Old Testament.

By eternal foreknowledge God is, able to allow us to do as we please, and come what may our free will is still mysteriously working within God's Sovereign will, and bringing about His eternal plan that He set in motion before the beginning of time, this is the wonder of God's eternal foreknowledge, and His eternal wisdom. God in the book of Isaiah says:

- **Isaiah 55:8-9:** My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD, for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Paul told the Jews at Thessalonica:

- Acts 17:3: it was necessary for Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead.

This verse clearly shows that from the foundation of the world Christ's death and resurrection was in God's eternal plan for mankind's salvation before time began. God's foreknowledge is a stunning mystery to the human mind but majestically manifests the wisdom of God who has given mankind free will.

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## A LITTLE BOOK THAT WAS SWEET AND BITTER

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- **Revelation 10:9-10:** So, I (John) went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, "Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey." <sup>10</sup> And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it. It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter.

Most feel it would be a great to have the gift of looking-into the future, which no doubt it would if we only saw the good, but the joy we might feel would be taken away when having such foresight, also brings into our view the sight of horrific, desolations, destruction and grievous persecutions of God's people and the death of multitudes. Having such foresight would naturally bring about a mixture of joyful happiness when we see what is good, but sorrow when all that is bad came into view, this mixture of emotions is expressed in the words, bitter and sweet. For John the knowledge of future things was, at first, pleasant, but its sad contents of the little book afterward filled his heart and mind with sorrow. This was because it was revealed to him, that there would not only be great opposition and persecution to God's people, but also many false teachers, false doctrines and distorted and deceptive teachings would infiltrate and corrupt the global church during the space of time leading up to the seventh trumpet.

Even today when the faithful mediate upon the enormous joy of the revelation of Christ's return in glory, and their being gathered to him, and the kingdoms of this world becoming the Kingdoms of God there is overwhelming joy, but when the mind reflects upon the enormous suffering and destruction that will come upon this world before that day, there is sorrow.

The following words the angel spoke to John:

- It will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth, it will be sweet as honey.

Are very fitting to describe the mixture of joy and grief John would have experienced in his mind, as the vision of looming future events was opened to him.

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**FOOTNOTE:** when speaking of such topics and God's sovereignty, God's timeless mind, predestination and God's foreknowledge, I am fully aware that it is with a fallen and finite mind that is limited to time (as we understand it), that I am attempting to understand God's eternal wisdom and God's eternal knowledge which is far higher than my limited fallen mortal mind can comprehend, therefore I never claim perfect understanding and would certainly not be dogmatic concerning my explanations and understandings when speaking of God's eternal sovereignty, but always allow for a certain amount of mystery.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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