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## Predestined for Goodness and Greatness: God's Enduring Love for Humanity

*A Commentary by Jason Curry*



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Much has been said and plenty has been written about destiny and predestiny. Some of the people who have weighed in on this discussion for the last two thousand years were Christians (e.g., Paul in Romans 8:29-31 and Ephesians 1:11-12) and some of them were not (e.g., Sophocles and the story of Oedipus Rex). I've heard many of the arguments for and against the idea of destiny, and I continue to be amazed by people in general and Christians in particular who assert that human beings have no "divine" destiny. They argue that we have free will and the power to choose our own future; therefore, we don't have a destiny other than the one that we create. Then there are others, like me, who believe that God has created each and every one of us for a specific, good and noble purpose. I still do not believe that anyone is destined or predestined (before the time of birth) by God to smoke crack in a alley, to be a victim of sex trafficking or to work more than thirteen hours a

day as a child in a "sweat-shop" in Asia. Much of the evil that exists in the world should be attributed to Reinhold Niebuhr's notion of "man's inhumanity to man" not God. As a Christian community, our destiny concerns our willingness to do that which is good, and to improve the lives of suffering people in the same manner in which Jesus improved the lives of the people in his day. Our destiny is inextricably connected to our ability to find a way to love God, and our neighbors, through our words and deeds, wherever we may them (Matthew 22:37-39).

Jeremiah was prophet, a servant of God, who was predestined for greatness before he entered the world as a child. God said to Jeremiah: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations. (Jeremiah 1:5)" Jeremiah fulfilled his great destiny for humanity because he ensured that his will was in according with the will of

God. Indeed, we have free will and the ability to make choices; however, our will should reflect Proverbs 3:5-6 as well as a verse from a great song: "Order my steps in your Word dear Lord." It is through prayer, fasting, reading our bibles and listening to the Word on Sunday that we will be able to discern God's will and make the appropriate choice to live out God's destiny for our lives. We're destined for greatness, and if we be faithful over a few things, God will make us master over many (Matthew 25:23).