PREDESTINATION

ACTS 4:27-28

ACTS 2:23

SCRIPTURE VS. PARADIGM

BEYOND THE FUNDAMENTALS
New way of thinking
Not a new flow chart
Sound Epistemology
Discernment
When it comes to predestination, do NOT think of it as a CONCEPT. Treat it like a word that appears in the text that needs to be interpreted in the context in which it appears. This is the same way ANY word or concept should be treated. Ditch the idea of over-arching concepts. Deal with words as nothing other than parts of sentences that play a strictly contextual role.
Beyond the Fundamentals Does not endorse These statements.

“I concede more—that thieves and murderers, and other evil-doers, are instruments of Divine Providence, being employed by the Lord himself to execute the judgments which he has resolved to inflict.”

- John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion, I.XVII.5)

“God hath decreed in himself, from all eternity, by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably, all things, whatsoever comes to pass…”

- London Baptist Confession, 1689, Chapter 3

“God brings about all things in accordance with his will. It isn’t just that God manages to turn the evil aspects of our world to good for those that love him; it is rather that he himself brings about these evil aspects… …even the sexual abuse of a young child.”

RC Sproul.
God hath decreed in himself, from all eternity, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely and unchangeably, all things, whatsoever comes to pass;

1 yet so as thereby is God neither the author of sin nor hath fellowship with any therein;

2 nor is violence offered to the will of the creature, nor yet is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established;

3 in which appears His wisdom in disposing all things, and power and faithfulness in accomplishing His decree.

- London Baptist Confession, 1689, chapter 3

Isaiah 45:7
I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things.

Jeremiah 19:5
They have built also the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings unto Baal, which I commanded not, nor spake it, neither came it into my mind:
Romans 8:29-30
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.
30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

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

Ephesians 1:11
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:

In scripture, no lost people are ever predestinated to be converted.

Only saved people are predestinated, and the predestination does not start until after conversion.

Post-conversion Believers are predestinated to 3 future things according to scripture.

1. To be conformed to the image of Jesus (Rom. 8:29; 1 John 3:2).

2. The redemption of the body, called "adoption" (Eph. 1:5; Rom. 8:23).


All of these are future things that happen long AFTER conversion.
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3. Inheritance in heaven (Ephesians 1:11 [KJV], 1 Peter 1:1-9).

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Acts 4:27
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,

Acts 4:28
For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

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

1 Corinthians 2:7
But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

Ephesians 3:5
Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

Ephesians 3:9
And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

Ephesians 3:11
According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

Ephesians 1:9
Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

Ephesians 1:10
That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:
John 17:24
Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for 
thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

Revelation 13:8
And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.
Genesis 50:19–20 (KJV)
19 And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God?
20 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.

Romans 8:28 (KJV)
28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.
Bad things happen. Calvinists think that all those bad things are pre-ordained. Yet there is no evidence in scripture that all bad things are orchestrated, whether or not they work together to some greater good. The only indicator we have of bad things being worked out for good are for those who are called according to God’s purpose, and for specific pre-planned events, such as Christ’s purpose in coming to earth.
Inductive reasoning vs. inductive method

Inductive reasoning:
- I knew of one car that went 50k miles without an oil change. Therefore, all car owners can safely wait 50k miles between oil changes.
- I know of one legitimate case of gender dysphoria. Therefore, every person can re-assign their own gender depending on what outfits like like to wear.
- I know of one woman who successfully passed Army ranger school. Therefore, there is no difference between men and women’s physical capabilities.
- I know of one place where God brought something to pass by predeterminate council and foreknowledge. Therefore, everything that happens is because of God’s predeterminate council and foreknowledge.

Inductive reasoning uses a singular event or minority of events as confirmation that a larger trend is true. And in almost every case, the person or group employing inductive reasoning already possesses a very strong presuppositional bias for the over-arching trend.
The fact that we are told specific things that are predetermined is better indication that these events are exceptional, otherwise we wouldn’t have to be told. There would just be a blanket statement like we find in the London Baptist confession, and then the Bible wouldn’t have to waste any time telling us any specific thing that had been pre-arranged because they all would have been.
Solomon Asch conformity experiments: 37% of the time, with no world view attachment, or in-group membership establishment, people will defect on their sense-making in order to conform to a seemingly unanimous majority. (Thus, “unanimous majority” will often be presented as a reason to believe in Calvinism.)
Wave functions do not collapse unless observed
- double slit experiment
- entanglement
- retro-causality in quantum mechanics
Paradigm

1. Respond to reality
2. Conserve the paradigm
3. Resolve dissonance
Plausibility - Calvinists often present things that are “plausible,” with the idea that they should be considered until disproven. This is the opposite of the inductive method and of logic. In logic, burden of proof lays on the person making the claim. In the inductive method, plausibility is not a factor. Only actual observations are listed. things that might be true have no reason to be considered until they are observed in the text.

Calvinists have arguments for “Plausible” suggestions that essentially amount to dissonance resolution, mystery, and further plausibility. In other words, if “x” were true, then it’s possible that the text would mean _____, instead of what it says.
Calvinism’s lack of disconfirmation criteria, or absurd disconfirmation criteria, demonstrates that it is not an evidence-based paradigm.
Human nature is predictable
We conducted predetermine council and foreknowledge all the time
- paradigm conservation plus conformity pressure will get an insightful person ostracized or killed almost ever time
- Military plans predict enemy action for the specific purpose of taking away their agency and overcoming their free will
- sending a child rapist into the general population of a prison will result in their death
- Group dynamics
- Judo
- Forming, storming, norming, performing
Agent and arena  
- Football player and a football field. They go together, and the actions in that context make sense, both there, and considering the broader context of the business, and marketing, and having fans, and getting paid, etc...
- It would be absurd to play football outside of the football arena, such as during a board meeting at work, or in a grocery store. The agency of football playing is only fitted to a specific arena.
- Likewise, it would be absurd to try to play tennis in a football stadium.
- Ideas, paradigms, meme complexes and reality tunnels are like organisms. They survive best in a fitness landscape to which they are fitted. In the case of Calvinism, a fitness landscape that is conducive to the survival of Calvinism is one in which a majority of the people adhere to the paradigm. Like a parasite, ideas need people to host them. The ideas possess the host. The host is typically unaware of the possessive nature of the idea, paradigm, or meme complex. The job of a meme complex is to grow so that adherents to the meme complex have a larger arena, that is, a larger fitness landscape. This enables adherence to and propagation of the meme set. This is why Calvinism spreads itself to other professing Christians rather than directly to the lost. Calvinists evangelize with the tenants of their meme-complex host - Christianity which they do as lip service to the world-view in which they are disguising themselves. Then they “evangelize” professing Christians with their sub-meme complex of Calvinism.
- They use paradigmatic conservation, in-group conformity pressure, and arguments of morality and ability rather than of fact and evidence. Any fact or evidence presented is extremely one-sided and coupled with elements of the aforementioned characteristics. This is the nature of ideological possession.
Calvinists and Bible believers are playing a completely different game.

- Bible believers approach the Bible with bated breath, waiting to see what it has to say and earnestly endeavoring to find out what that means. We presume that God knows more than us and we want to explore than divine knowledge.

- Calvinists necessarily have to approach the Bible with the meaning of it already determined prior to examining the text. There is nothing open-ended about it. There is no need or room for curiosity with regard to the content or meaning of the text. Once Total Depravity is presupposed, it collapses the wave function of possibilities for reality within that paradigm, and within that presupposed arena. At that point, the purpose of study is to increase the level of cleverness with which the text can be explained in a way that conserves the paradigm. In Calvinism, it’s not possible for God to know anything outside of their man-made paradigm. It places extreme boundaries on God’s knowledge, purpose, and even abilities.
Don’t outsource one’s sense-making.

Discernment.

Employing a world view that is attuned to reality and responding to it in a way that is commensurate with what is encountered in reality.
What might the Biblical Narrative be trying to tell us in the form of an unforgettable story?

Ideological Possession

Demonic Possession

In-group pressure influences people to defect on their own sense-making in order to normalize with the larger in-group, and they accept the tenants of the group, despite personal internal conflict with the tenants.

“My name is Legion: for we are many.”
- Mk 5:9.

People will normalize to a Calvinist/Baptist/Catholic/Assembly of God/Democrats/Antifa/Mormons/ Marxists/Abortionist/Climate change activist, etc.… in-group’s tenants of belief, due to in-group conformity pressures, even if they have internal thinking that is at odds with the in-group’s beliefs.