Thursology 120: Has God Predestined Who Will be Saved and Who Will be Lost??? (Lamb's Book of Life/Revelation 20-Pt 2)

(*Thursology Live!* 2/6/25)

--The three main points of The Revelation:

--Main Point #1: Revealing the *exalted* majesty, awesome power, and absolute preeminence of *Christ*…the Coming One*!!!*

--Main Point #2: Be *ready*…because He's coming like a *thief!!!*

--Main Point #3: In the *end*…what matters is having your *name* in the *book!!!*

> --Revelation 20:11-15: Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it…And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books…and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds…And if anyone's name was not found written in *the book of life*, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

--Predestination and Salvation Theology:

--The "TULIP" of Classical Calvinism:

- --**T**_____ Depravity
- --**U**_____ Election
- --**L**_____ Atonement
- --**I**_____ Grace
- --**P**_____ of the Saints

--Predestination and the Reformed Concept of Unconditional Election:

--The definition of Unconditional Election from the Westminster Confession: "By the *decree* of God, for the manifestation of His own glory, some humans and angels are *predestined* unto everlasting **LIFE**, and others *foreordained* to everlasting _____"

> --John Calvin: "Everything depends upon the mere will of God; if some are *damned* and others *saved*, it is because God has created some for *death* and others for *life*."
>
> --Edwin Palmer: "…all things are ordained by God—including sin and unbelief—thus, God has ordained *who* will be *unbelievers*…"
>
> --Henry Sheldon: "God *foreordained* that the fall would involve, *beyond any chance* of *rescue*, the eternal ruin and damnation of the *majority* of the human race.
>
> --Lorraine Boettner: "The doctrine of Predestination holds that some are *foreordained to death* as truly as others are *foreordained to life*…We believe that from all eternity, *God has intended to leave some of Adam's race in their sins*, and that the *decisive factor*…is to be found *only in God's will*."

--The implications of the doctrine of Unconditional Election:

--Implication #1: Biblical words like "sinners," "world," "whosoever," "any," and "all"…must be _____ in a very _____ way

--"Sinners"

--I Tim 1:15: "It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save *sinners*…"

--The problem: In Reformed theology…the term "sinners" must be re-defined to mean, "the _____ among sinners."

--How I Tim 1:15 would read if Unconditional Election/Double Predestination were true: "It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save *the elect*…"

--"Whosoever:"

--Joel 2:32: "*Whosoever* shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

--John 3:16: "God so loved the *world* that He gave His only begotten Son, that *whosoever* believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

--The problem: In Reformed theology…the words "*world*" and "*whosoever*" must mean…"The _____"

--John 3:14-15: *As Moses lifted up the serpent* in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that *whoever* believes *will* in Him have *eternal life*.

--Numbers 21:6-9: The Lord sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. So the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, because we have spoken against the Lord and you; intercede with the Lord, that He may remove the serpents from us." And Moses interceded for the people. Then the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a standard; and it shall come about, that *everyone* who is bitten, when he looks at it, he will live." And Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on the standard; and it came about, that if a serpent bit *any* man, *when* he looked to the bronze serpent, he *lived*.

--Implication #2: The Gospel *isn't* for _____ people

--Reformed view: The Gospel is preached so the _____ can have it preached to _____

--Acts 10:42-43: And He *ordered us to preach* to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead. Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name *everyone* who believes in Him *receives forgiveness of sins*."

--The Apostles' view: The Gospel is preached so that _____ who believes will _____ forgiveness of their sins

--The Great Commission:

--Mark 16:15: "Go into *all* the world and preach the gospel to *all* creation."

--The Great Commission from the Reformed Perspective: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to *The* _____"

--Implication #3: Jesus isn't the Savior of the _____ world

--John 4:39-42: From that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all the things that I have done." So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. Many more believed because of His word; and they were saying to the woman, "It is no longer because of what *you* said that we believe, for we have heard for *ourselves* and *know* that this One is *indeed* the Savior of the *world*."

--I John 4:14: And we…bear *witness* that the Father has sent the Son to be the _____ of the _____."

--Implication #4: If salvation comes alone from God's _____…then God should have decreed that _____ would be saved

--***WHY*** did God choose to save only ***SOME*** people…and reject ***MOST*** people…when He could have saved ***EVERYONE***???

--Reformed answer #1: For His _____

--John Calvin: "God saves *whom He wills* to save and does so of *His own good pleasure*."

--James Boyce: "God saves *only* those whom He is *pleased* to save."

--Reformed answer #2: For His _____

--Westminster Confession: "By the decree of God, for *the manifestation of His own glory*, some men and angels are predestined unto everlasting life, and others *foreordained to everlasting death*.

--Edwin Palmer: "God…for the *glory* of His own power, ordained some to dishonor and wrath for their sin, to the *praise* of His *glorious* justice."

--***Why*** did God choose only to save some people when He could have saved everyone?

--God *chose* to save only *some*…and…the reason is _____ in His own _____ counsels

--John MacArthur: "*God determined* before time began *to love and save some* people…His purposes for choosing some and rejecting others are *hidden* in the *secret counsels* of His own will…"

--Implication #5: God loves _____ the _____

--Michael Horton: "The Calvinistic view of love actually intensifies *God's love* by *limiting it only to those who believe*. That sure beats the indiscriminate, general benevolence of God that we seem to be hearing so much about today."

--Steven Houck, "It *cannot be* that God loves *everyone*. Since God's love is sovereign and therefore always is a saving love, *only those* who experience the salvation of the Lord can be the objects of His love."

--The fundamental REASON behind ALL salvation: “God so _____ the _____…”

--Application: *Every* thinking believer is at risk for identifying their _____ articulation of the Gospel…as the _____ Gospel*!!!*

--R. C. Sproul: “The titans of classical Christian scholarship are Calvinists.”

--The London Declaration of the Alliance of Reformation Christians: We call upon evangelicals to return to the once-held biblical view that to lay claim to *Calvinism* as true is not spiritual arrogance, but a biblical duty.”

--John Gerstner: “We believe that *Calvinism* is just another name for *Christianity*.”

--Leonard Coppes: “Calvinism is pure biblical Christianity in its clearest and purest expression.”

Thursology 119: Revelation 20—The Lamb's Book of Life, God's Sovereignty, and Human Free Will (Book of Life-Pt 1)

(*Thursology Live!* 1/2/25)

--The three main points of The Revelation:

--Main Point #1: Revealing the **EXALTED** majesty, awesome power, and absolute preeminence of **CHRIST**…the Coming One*!!!*

--Revelation 1:12-17: Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength. When I saw Him, *I fell at His feet like a dead man*.

--Main Point #2: Be **READY**…because He's coming like a **THIEF***!!!*

--Revelation 3:3: So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not *wake up*, I will come *like a thief*, and you will not know at *what hour* I will come to you.

--Revelation 16:15: "Behold, I am coming like *a thief*. Blessed is the one who stays awake…"

--Main Point #3: In the *end*…what matters is having your **NAME** in the **BOOK***!!!*

--Revelation 20:11-15: Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in *the book of life*, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

--Shaking us up*!!!*

--Romans 9:10-18: And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived twins by one man, our father Isaac; for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that *God's purpose according to His choice* would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls, it was said to her, "The older will serve the younger." Just as it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated." What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be! For He says to Moses, "*I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion*." So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "*For this very purpose I raised you up*, to demonstrate My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth." So then *He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires*.

--John 10:27-29: My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and *they will never perish*; and *no one will snatch them out of My hand*. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and *no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand*.

--Rev 13:8: All who dwell on the earth will worship him, *everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb* who has been slain.

--Dr. John Block: "Don't *ever* let your *theology* get in the way of what the biblical text *actually says*!"

--A Key Concept: **BIBLICAL** Theology must *always* supersede **SYSTEMATIC** Theology*!!!*

--Sovereignty "Versus" Free Will:

--A common, but false, dichotomy: **EITHER** God is sovereign…**OR** humans have free will…but…both **CANNOT** be true

--Biblical Foundation #1: God is absolutely SOVEREIGN over EVERYTHING…past, present and future*!!!*

--Isaiah 40:12-15, 25-26: Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, and marked off the heavens by the span, and calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, and weighed the mountains in a balance and the hills in a pair of scales? Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, or as His counselor has informed Him? With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge and informed Him of the way of understanding? Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales; Behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust…"To whom then will you liken Me That I would be his equal?" says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these stars, the One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, not one of them is missing.

--Isaiah 46:9-10: "Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, *declaring the end from the beginning*, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, 'My purpose *will* be established, and I *will* accomplish *all* My good pleasure.'"

--Key Concept: If God can do anything He wants…*then* He could create humans **WITH** or **WITHOUT** free will.

--Cross Truth: The cross is the most powerful argument for the fact that…while God *has* all authority…He doesn't choose to **EXERCISE** *all* authority at *all* **TIMES**.

--Philippians 2:5-7: Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard *equality* with God a thing to be grasped, but *emptied* Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

--The essence of the biblical meaning of the Kenosis: The "Kenosis" is the act of Christ taking on a human **NATURE**…with *all* of its **LIMITATIONS**…except with *no* **SIN**.

--Biblical Foundation #2: God…in His sovereignty…INTERACTS with humans in RESPONSE to their FREELY chosen decisions, actions, and requests

--Precept #1: God **RESPONDS** to human **REQUESTS**

--Luke 18:1-7: Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.' For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, yet *because* this widow bothers me, *I will* give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.'" And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge said; now, will not God bring about justice for His elect *who cry to Him day and night*, and will He delay long over them?

--Isaiah 38:1-5: In those days Hezekiah became mortally ill. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came to him and said to him, "Thus says the Lord, 'Set your house in order, for *you shall die* and not live.'" Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and *prayed to the Lord*, and said, "Remember now, O Lord, I beseech You, how I have walked before You in truth and with a whole heart, and have done what is good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly. Then the word of the Lord came to Isaiah, saying, "Go and say to Hezekiah, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of your father David, "*I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears*; behold, I will *add* fifteen years to your life.

--Precept #2: God sometimes **CHANGES** His will…in **RESPONSE** to His children's obedience or disobedience

--Numbers 14:6-9; 26-29; 39-45: Joshua…and Caleb…among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; and they spoke to all the congregation of the sons of Israel, saying, "The land which we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. *If the Lord is pleased with us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us*—a land which flows with milk and honey. Only do not rebel against the Lord; and do not fear the people of the land, for…their protection has been removed from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them." But all the congregation said to stone them with stones.
--The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, "How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who are grumbling against Me? I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel, which they are making against Me. Say to them, 'As I live,' says the Lord, '…your corpses will fall in this wilderness…according to your complete number from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against Me.'"
--When Moses spoke these words to all the sons of Israel, the people mourned greatly. In the morning, however, they rose up early and went up to the ridge of the hill country, saying, "Here we are; *we have indeed sinned, but we will go up to the place which the Lord has promised*." But Moses said, "Why then are you *transgressing* the commandment of the Lord, when it will not succeed? *Do not go up*, or you will be struck down before your enemies, for *the Lord is not among you*…and you will fall by the sword, inasmuch as you have *turned back from following the Lord*. And the Lord will not be with you." But they went up heedlessly to the ridge of the hill country; neither the ark of the covenant of the Lord nor Moses left the camp. Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who lived in that hill country came down, and struck them and beat them down…"

--Key Concept: In 24 hours…God's will *changed* to such an extent that what He **DEMANDED** of His children on one day…was **FORBIDDEN** on the next.

--Precept #3: Sometimes God is **SORRY** for what He does because people **REFUSE** to follow His plan

--I Samuel 15:9; 28; 35: But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were not willing to

destroy them utterly; but everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed…So Samuel said to him, "The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to your neighbor, who is better than you…and Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord *regretted* that He had made Saul king over Israel.

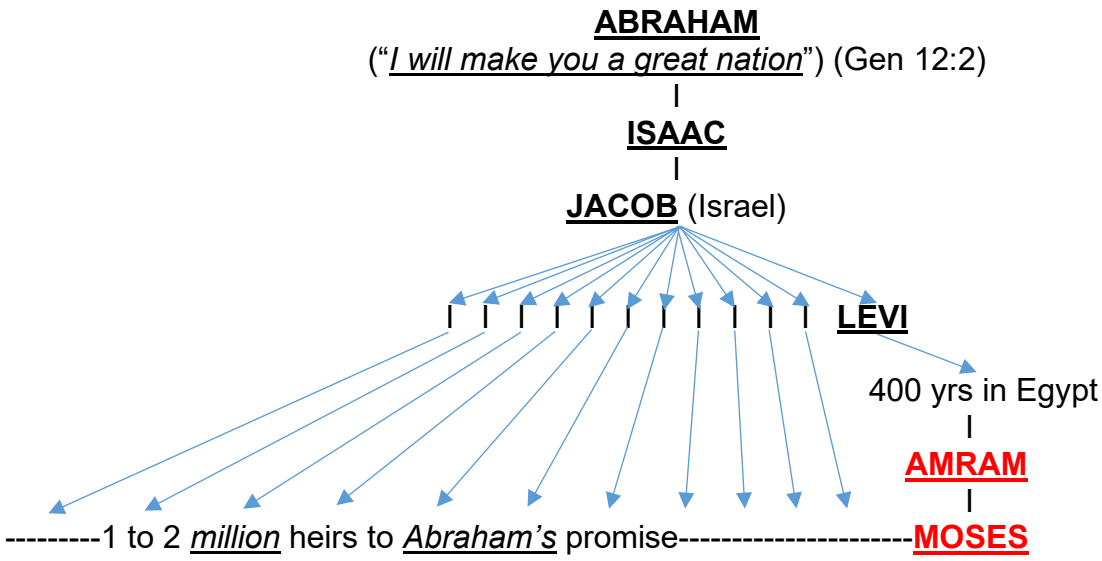
--Hebrew: "**REGRET**"

--Genesis 6:5-7: Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. The Lord was *sorry* that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. The Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am *sorry* that I have made them."

--Hebrew: "**SORRY**"

--Precept #4: Sometimes God makes a plan…then decides to **CHANGE** His plan…and then is **REMINDED** by a human of His promises…and then decides to return to His **ORIGINAL** plan*!!!*

--Exodus 32:7-10: Then the Lord spoke to Moses, "Go down at once, for your people, whom you brought up from the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. They have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them. They have made for themselves a molten calf, and have worshiped it and have sacrificed to it and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt!'" The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, they are an obstinate people. Now then let Me alone, that My anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them; and *I will make of you a great nation*."



--Exodus 32:11-14: Then Moses entreated the Lord his God, and said, "O Lord, why does Your anger burn against Your people whom *You* have brought out from the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians speak, saying, 'With evil intent He brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to destroy them from the face of the earth'? Turn from Your burning anger and *change Your mind* about doing harm to Your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants to whom You swore by Yourself, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heavens, and all this land of which I have spoken I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" So *the Lord changed His mind* about the harm which He said He would do to His people.

--The actual text → "So the LORD **CHANGED** His **MIND**…"

--Precept #5: There are prophecies related to *Christ's return* that show God's willingness to **DELAY** His wrath…and **HASTEN** His blessing…*based upon* the obedience of His people.

--Luke 17:28-30: It was the same as happened in the days of Lot…on the day that Lot went out from Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. *It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed*."

--Genesis 18:22-26: Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham was still standing before the Lord. Abraham came near and said, "Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will You indeed sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are treated alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?" So the Lord said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare the whole place on their account."

--Genesis 18:32: And Abraham…said, "Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak only this once; suppose ten are found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy it on account of the ten."

--II Pet 3:10-12: But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, *looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God*, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

--The tension that must remain to have a biblical understanding of God's sovereignty: For a theology to remain true to Scripture…it must account for *both* God's **ABSOLUTE** sovereignty…and…that He has given humans the **FREEDOM** to make meaningful **CHOICES***!!!*

--APPLICATION: When God's people choose to OBEY Him…it IMPACTS the world

--Zech 8:16-17; 20-23: "These are the things which you should do: speak the truth to one another; judge with truth and judgment for peace in your gates. Also let none of you devise evil in your heart against another, and do not love perjury; for all these are what I hate," declares the Lord. Thus says the Lord of hosts, "It will yet be that peoples will come, even the inhabitants of *many* cities. The inhabitants of one will go to another, saying, '*Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the Lord, and to seek the Lord of hosts*; I will also go.'" So *many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek the Lord of hosts* in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the Lord.' Thus says the Lord of hosts, '*In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you*."'"

--Psalm 51:10-13: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me away from Your presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit. 13 *Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will be converted to You*.

--Key Concept: The purpose of the free **CHOICE** to allow Christ to live His holiness in *us*…is that it *leads* people to **JESUS***!!!*

--Genesis 18:32: "…Suppose *ten* are found there? And the LORD said, I will not destroy it on account of *ten*."

--As we begin a new year…some questions:

--What have you done with your free will? Is there anything in your life that shows that you're choosing *your* way…rather than *His*? Have you forgotten that you were bought with a price? Today…and in this coming year…will you use *your will* to come into compliance with *His will*? Will you be used by Him to draw lost people to salvation…by obeying Him in every aspect of your life?

--Can God count on *you* to help Him *change* the eternal destiny of the people around you?