

DISCOVERING YOUR DESTINY

PART 1: THE GOD WHO RISKS

Introduction – Of Oedipus, Eve, & Barbie

The Conundrum of Calvinism...
The God behind God theory...
The problem with determinism...

Jeremiah 18:1-12

It makes God _____!
It leaves people _____!

The Legacy Of Plato VS. “Open Theism”

Platonic Calvinism...

- Perfection never _____.
- God is _____.
- Hence, God must never _____.
- Hence, God must always _____ everything (including the future).
- Therefore, the future must be entirely _____.

Open Theism...

- God knows everything that _____ to be known.
- The past is _____; the present is _____; the future is _____.

The God Who Regrets

Genesis 6:5-6; 1 Samuel 15:10, 35; Jeremiah 3:6-7

The God Who Responds

Exodus 32:14; 33:1-3, 14; Numbers 11:1-2; 14:12-20; 16:20-35, 41-48; Deuteronomy 9:13-14, 18-20, 25; Judges 10:13-16; 2 Samuel 24:17-25; 1 Kings 21:21-29; 2 Kings 13:3-5; 2 Chronicles 12:5-8
2 Kings 20:1-6

The God Who Risks

Genesis 1:26-27; Isaiah 63:9-10

So What?

The Power Of Prayer...

2 Samuel 24:25; Matthew 6:10; Luke 18:1-5

The Power Of Choice...

Deuteronomy 30:19; 2 Samuel 24:12-16; Ezekiel 33:10-16

The Power Of Love...

Ezekiel 18:23; 1 Timothy 2:3-4

Conclusion – Moving From Fate To Faith

James 2:26

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

WARMING UP...

1. Before this week's teaching, if someone asked you "Do you believe in fate?", how do you think you would have responded? How do you think you would respond now?
2. After reviewing this week's teaching, share one new thing you learned or one thing that challenged, encouraged, or perplexed you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK!...

3. Read **Romans 8:28-29**. a) How does this verse appear to support the belief in a biblical version of "fate" for our lives? b) What is the goal these verses say God is predestining us to – Salvation or Sanctification? c) How does **Philippians 1:6 & Ephesians 1:4** inform our interpretation of **Romans 8:28-29**? d) In light of this, what do you think is the real message of **Romans 8:28-29**?
4. Read **2 Chronicles 7:14**. a) Describe and discuss the "if-then" formula of this verse and its relevance to this topic. b) What does this suggest about God's desire to partner with our free will to bring about a better future? c) What does each of the "if's" listed in this verse look like in your life?
5. Discuss how **2 Samuel 24:12-16** & especially **Ezekiel 33:10-16** contribute to the debate between a predestined, settled future vs. an open partnering future.

SO WHAT?...

6. How can this study effect your a) prayer life, b) choices for righteousness, c) commitment to love God and others actively. What is one thing you plan to do different this week that will contribute to your goal? (Do you think it was foreordained for you to do that?)