

# Gospel Doctrine Sunday School Lesson

Volume 2, Issue 2

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Slippery Rock Branch

Today's Word: Foreordination

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## Are You:

- Reading Scriptures Every Day?
- Saying Your Personal Prayers Daily?
- Having Prayers Daily as a Family?
- Having Family Home Evening Every Week?

## Next Week

### Lesson 3:

"The Creation"

Moses 1: 27-42; 2-3



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## Lesson 2: "Thou Wast Chosen Before Thou Wast Born"

### Questions to Ponder

- In addition to foreordaining the prophets to their callings, God foreordained many "other choice spirits" to help build up his kingdom in different ways. What might you have been foreordained to do?
- What does it mean to be foreordained?
- How can we be sure we are fulfilling our foreordained callings?
- How does it help you to know that you chose to follow Jesus Christ in the Council in Heaven?

JESUS WAS FOREORDAINED TO CARRY OUT THE ATONEMENT, BECOMING "THE LAMB SLAIN FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD." (REVELATION 13: 8)

### Lesson Highlights

- Abraham learns that in the premortal life many spirits were foreordained to their mortal missions.
- Jesus Christ was chosen in the Council in Heaven to be our Savior and we chose to follow him. Satan was cast out and other spirits who followed him were also cast out of Heaven.

"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." —Jeremiah 1:5



The Prophet Jeremiah

Consider the differences between predestination and foreordination. Both teach that we have missions to fulfill while on earth and destinations at which to arrive. However, that's about where the similarities end. Predestination assumes that everything is pre-planned from the very beginning, and we have no real choice in the matter. We're just along for the ride. Foreordination, on the other hand, is based upon free will. We have divine missions that we CAN fulfill, indeed, are entitled to fulfill while on earth, but it is up to us to make the right choices, to map out the path by which we can accomplish these goals, in order to receive the heavenly reward that has been reserved for us. To me, it seems similar to a hotel reservation that must be guaranteed by a certain time. Only this is the most divine hotel ever!

### President Ezra Taft Benson:

"God has held you in reserve to make your appearance in the final days before the second coming of the Lord. Some individuals will fall away; but the kingdom of God will remain intact to welcome the return of its head—even Jesus Christ. While our generation will be comparable in wickedness to the days of Noah, when the Lord cleansed the earth by flood, there is a major difference this time. It is that God has saved for the final inning some of His strongest children, who will help bear off the kingdom triumphantly. ...

"... Make no mistake about it—you are a marked generation. There has never been more expected of the faithful in such a short period of time than there is of us." (*The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson*, 1988, p. 104-5).

### Neal A. Maxwell:

Foreordination is like any other blessing — it is a conditional bestowal subject to our faithfulness. Prophecies foreshadow events without determining those outcomes, because of a divine foreseeing of that outcome. So foreordination is a conditional bestowal of a role, responsibility, or a blessing that, likewise, foresees but does not fix the outcome. (*Things as They Really Are*, Deseret Book Company: Salt Lake City, 1978, p. 24.)