

The Book of Romans

Foreknew

Biblical Foreknowledge in Romans 8:29

Dictionary definition of Foreknew

To know beforehand, have previous knowledge of. (OED)

Interpretive Options for FOREKNEW

Popular View

Knowing what will happen before it happens. Looking down the corridor of time God sees that you will come to believe in Jesus Christ and then predestines that to happen.

Calvinistic View

God chooses to set apart someone for salvation before they have done anything. In eternity past God set his love upon (chose) some to save and then predestined them to be saved.

Occurrences of Foreknew in Romans

προγινωσκω

Romans 8:29, Romans 11:2

Biblical Evidence for the Calvinistic View

Near Context

The same word is used in the same book in *Romans 11:2*. In chapter 11 Paul is talking about God's plan for the nation of Israel.

Analogy of Faith

- The Analogy of Faith refers to the interpretive principle of determining the meaning of a passage by comparing it with the rest of Scripture.
- In *Amos 3:2* it is revealed to the prophet Amos that God chose the nation of Israel and therefore knew her in a way that he did not know the other nations of the world.
- In *Deuteronomy 7:7-8* God again refers to Israel as someone he has set his love upon (chose). Choosing in love is again referred to in *Ephesians 1:4-5*.

Use of "know" in OT

God knew Jeremiah in a way that he did not know others. He chose him to be a prophet. *Jeremiah 1:5*

Use of "know" in NT

In *Matthew 7:22-23*, in a context that is speaking of salvation, the Lord only knows believers. He does not know unbelievers. In this context he could only be describing his unique knowledge of believers. They are the only ones he chose to set his love upon.

Man's Inability

Man is unable to believe on his own. If God looked down the corridor of time the only thing that he would see would be unbelief. *1 Corinthians 2:14, John 6:44*

Conclusion

Foreknew as Scripture defines it in *Romans 8:29* refers to the loving choice made by the Father of those that would be purchased by Jesus Christ on the cross.