

Series: Isaiah  
Title: Because God Knew  
Text: Isaiah 48: 3-8  
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**Isaiah 48: 3: I have declared the former things from the beginning; and they went forth out of my mouth, and I shewed them; I did *them* suddenly, and they came to pass.**

The gospel is God declaring what he purposed to do from eternity—v3: I have declared the former things from the beginning. In eternity, God chose whom he would save.

Ephesians 1:3: Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: 4: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

In eternity, God chose BY WHOM he would save his elect--He hath chosen us in HIM—in Christ his Son--before the foundation of the world

Isaiah 42: 1: Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, *in whom* my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. 2 He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. 3 A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. 4 He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.

The gospel is God declaring that he has accomplished the salvation of his people in his Son just as he said he would from eternity. **Isaiah 48: 3:...and they went forth out of my mouth, and I shewed them; I did *them* suddenly, and they came to pass.**

Galatians 4: 3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: 4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Acts 20: 28:...the church OF GOD, which HE hath purchased with HIS OWN BLOOD.

Hebrews 9: 12: Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*.

Galatians 3: 13: Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree: 14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

The gospel is God revealing these hidden mysteries in the heart of his elect child which the Holy Spirit of God has created anew... **Isaiah 48: 6: Thou hast heard, see all this; and will not ye declare *it*? I have shewed thee new things from this time, even hidden things, and thou didst not know them. 7 They are created now, and not from the beginning; even before the day when thou heardest them not**

Why did God chose to save his people this way?

**Isaiah 48: 4: Because I knew that thou *art* obstinate, and thy neck *is* an iron sinew, and thy brow brass;...5:...lest thou shouldst say, Mine idol hath done them, and my graven image, and my molten**

**image, hath commanded them....7:...lest thou shouldest say, Behold, I knew them. 8:...for I knew that thou wouldest deal very treacherously, and wast called a transgressor from the womb.**

**Titled:** Because God Knew

**I. FROM ETERNITY GOD CHOSE WHOM HE WOULD SAVE, HE CHOSE TO REDEEM THEM BY HIS SON, HE CHOOSE TO CREATE THEM ANEW BY HIS SPIRIT--4: Because I knew that thou *art* obstinate, and thy neck *is* an iron sinew, and thy brow brass;**

Child of God, God foreknew our sin.

Romans 5: 12: Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

This describes the unregenerate sinner. Sinner, you have heard God speak:

- In the gospel preached
- In light of his creation
- In his providence
- In his holy scriptures
- Through godly brethren and godly parents
- Even your own conscious has screamed at you to listen

Yet, you have been “obstinate, your neck an iron sinew, your brow brass”; You have “dealt treacherously and been a transgressor from the womb.”

But this describes believers as well. Believer, can any say with Paul, “O wretched man that I am.” I read here a description of myself.

Self-willed. I do not hear the voice of God and obey as I ought. God’s word is plain yet I act as if he had not spoken. Every word of God is right—every word for our good—yet when his word does not suit us just right we act as if we are the wise one.

Self-righteous. We become frustrated with the obstinacy of our children. But... at the very same time we sit before our heavenly Father with a scowl on our face because everything he is doing in his house doesn’t suit us just right. Or someone we know has sinned a great sin in our sight—we keep repeating to ourselves “how dare they.”—let me ask, “how dare I!”

Romans 2: 1: Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

May God teach us not speak down to a child or to a fellow believer, but as the chief of sinners before my heavenly Father let me speak as one beneath them.

Self-serving. How much of our time is spent for self? We call ourselves by the right name. We make mention of the name of God. But..

- How often our heart is far from the Lord.
- How easily we turn to our idols.
- How easily we seek warmth in only cold death.
- How often we seek comfort elsewhere but the Prince of peace.

Self-justifiers. Someone says,  
'Not me. I am faithful to God"—very treacherous  
"I am never lukewarm"—very treacherous  
"I'm always fervent in prayer"—very treacherous  
"I am so holy, I seldom sin" very treacherous

**Application:** Let us lie no more before God or to ourselves. Can we say with Paul, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom **I AM CHIEF**. (1 Tim 1: 15)

Psalm 130: 3: If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?

Psalm 39: 5: Behold, thou hast made my days *as* an handbreadth; and mine age *is* as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state *is* altogether vanity. Selah.

God chose to save his elect by his sovereign free grace in Christ **because God knew... thou art obstinate, and thy neck is an iron sinew, and thy brow brass**

Illustration: The hard dirt at Taylor—what will melt the iron neck and the brass brow—the message of salvation by grace.

**II. FROM ETERNITY GOD CHOSE WHOM HE WOULD SAVE, HE CHOSE TO REDEEM THEM BY HIS SON, HE CHOOSE TO CREATE THEM ANEW BY HIS SPIRIT Isaiah 48: 5: I have even from the beginning declared it to thee; before it came to pass I shewed it thee: lest thou shouldest say, Mine idol hath done them, and my graven image, and my molten image, hath commanded them**

God did not choose his people because he foreknew that they would choose to be saved or that they would repent and believe him or because of any foreseen merit whatsoever. That is sinful wretches saying, "Mine idol hath done them, mine idol hath commanded them." Sinful man saying, "I knew." Sinful man dealing, "very treachourously with God." That is the doctrine of works, not grace; the doctrine of man, not God. Such false doctrine is blasphemy against the God of grace. It is contrary to the scriptures which declare salvation is by the grace of God.

Election could not have been based upon foreknown goodness or foreknown works we would do, because there is no goodness in fallen man, for God to have foreknown! Even if it would have been possible to foresee good in us, there would have been enough vileness in us to have caused him to reject us.

But God foreknew our sin. God foreknew that man would try to ascribe salvation to himself—turn things upside down—because God knew man would be born morally depraved—incapable of doing good apart from God's power and grace.

Psalm 14: 2: The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, *and* seek God. 3: They are all gone aside, they are *all* together become filthy: *there is* none that doeth good, no, not one.

God's election of grace was not due to any foreseen merit in man.

Rom. 9:11: (For *the children* being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) 12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. 13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. 14 ¶ What shall we say then? *Is there* unrighteousness with God? God forbid. 15 For

he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 16 So then *it is* not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

Because God knew we would attribute his grace to our idol called self, God saves by sovereign grace.

**III. FROM ETERNITY GOD PURPOSED THAT THE WORKS WOULD BE FINISHED BY HIS SON AND REVEALED TO HIS CHILDREN, BORN OF THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH HIS GOSPEL. Isaiah 48: 7: They are created now, and not from the beginning; even before the day when thou heardest them not; lest thou shouldst say, Behold, I knew them.**

God says, "I have showed thee little by little and not all from the beginning. Because you would brag on your wisdom saying, Behold, I knew. The gospel is hid to the natural man and must be revealed through the gospel because God in wisdom knew his fallen, elect child would need to be brought to nothing so as to depend on God to teach him. He says, thou didst not know them.

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:

There is the word foreordained—God did foreknow our sin—but because God knew he foreordained that the world by its wisdom would not know him but that God would save through the gospel. He ordained it in wisdom.

1 Corinthians 1: 20 Where *is* the wise? where *is* the scribe? where *is* the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

1 Corinthians 2: 8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10 But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God...14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

God says I performed all my works long before you ever heard of them-and revealed them to you of my Spirit, **lest thou shouldst say, Behold, I knew them.** Now, the works were finished from the foundation of the world in the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Christ came and finished the work long before the day you heard. But God in wisdom teaches little by little through the gospel to make his child ever dependent upon the gospel so that none will glory in self but only in God who teaches us.

Ephesians 2: 1: And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. 4: But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

God foreknew our sin...Christ finished the work and God reveals the mystery in our hearts...lest thou should say I knew.

**IV. GOD SAVES BY HIS GRACE BECAUSE HE KNEW MEN WOULD DEAL TREACHOURSLY WITH HIM. Isaiah 48: 8: Yea, thou heardest not; yea, thou knewest not; yea, from that time that thine ear was not opened: for I knew that thou wouldest deal very treacherously, and wast called a transgressor from the womb.**

Sinners make their boast that they came to God by their will—God foreknew his elect would try to make that same evil boast—unless he saved us freely by his power and grace. But he makes us to know:

John 6:44: No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Faith is his gift of grace—walking by faith is a good work God foreordained that his elect shall walk in.

Ephesians 2: 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Psalm 65: 4: Blessed *is the man whom* thou choolest, and causest to approach *unto thee, that* he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, *even* of thy holy temple.

Psalm 110: 3: Thy people *shall be* willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth.

Elect according to the foreknowledge of God does not mean that God foresaw some goodness in us—it means God foreordained who, and in whom he would save his children.

- God foreordained his elect unto salvation.
- God foreordained that his Son, Christ Jesus, would be the righteousness and holiness of his people.
- God foreordained that salvation would not be of man that willeth or runneth but of God that sheweth mercy.
- God foreordained that he would draw his elect child to Christ.

Why? Isaiah 48: 4: Because I knew that thou *art* obstinate, and thy neck *is* an iron sinew, and thy brow brass; V7:...lest thou shouldest say, Behold, I knew them....V8:... for I knew that thou wouldest deal very treacherously, and wast called a transgressor from the womb.

**V. Now let's bring this down to where we live.**

There are no unknown things to God past, present or future. God is Deity. God knows all. All our sin was known to God beforehand.

- All evil thoughts
- Unseen malice of the heart
- Our vilest deeds
- Our cursed imagination
- I do not know my sinfulness as God does
- I do not hate sin as God does
- I do not see how worthy I am of hell

Yet, he chose us foreknowing what we would become. He knew our judgment, our conscience, our affections polluted, our wills would all become perverted. He knew we would be transgressors from the womb. He knew the neck would be an iron sinew. He knew the brow of brass. Yet he chose us though we would be transgressors from the womb.

This is the gospel of grace which makes us adore our God: his electing grace and love. We were the infant cast out into the field polluted in our own blood. Yet, he loved us.

Ezekiel 16: 8: Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time *was* the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swore unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine.

Believer, this melts our hearts. This is the lovingkindness, the goodness of God, that leads sinners to repentance.

Not only his electing grace, but his redeeming love. Christ knowing that we dealt very treacherously, yet he redeemed us not with silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ. You would think we would have been vile in his sight, he says “Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honorable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life?”

Romans 5: 8: But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Think of his adopting love. When God adopted us he did not do so with the limited foreknowledge we have. I have friends who have adopted children. We adopt hoping a child will grow up and be obedient. But what if we foreknew the child would grow up to be what God foreknew we would be?

Yet, God adopted us into his family, gave his name, making us righteous in his Son.

Ephesians 1: 5: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6: To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Galatians 4: 6: And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

1 John 3; 1: Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:

Christ took us to be his bride. How many times have you heard of married folks parting with the excuse, “I just didn’t know this about them. If I had known it I would not have married them.” Do you want security? Do you want assurance? It is to be found in the glorious truth of God’s sovereign, free grace. God knowing what we would be in our flesh even after our conversion, yet Christ united himself to us as a husband and a wife.

Ephesians 5: 30: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones...[like as a man leaves his father and mother, and is joined to his wife, and they two become one flesh] 32: This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Believer, when the evil of sin weighs heaviest, remember God hates putting away. What God has joined together no man can put asunder. Why? Because everything necessary Christ is—and Christ has provided—

to present us to himself a chaste virgin, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but holy and without blemish.

Go home with this, believer, we have dealt treacherously with our God.

- Our sins, we don't mourn over as we ought
- We look away from him to this flesh—our idol.
- Spend so little time in his word—boast of what we know as if we do not need to be taught of him.
- So little time thanking him for his benefits to us
- So lukewarm in our worship of him.

Grace is no excuse to sin—grace is the cure. Grace is the message and the power that makes our iron neck submissive. It is the fervent heat of unchanging love that melts the brass brow.

Get it down in our hearts and camp out here. God's love for his own is unchanging, unvaried, unbreakable, unending love! Nothing makes a child of God more thankful, more in love, more desirous to honor our Savior than when we behold his grace in light of our sinfulness.

1 John 2: 1: My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

What is your problem? Christ is the answer. What is your disease? Christ is the cure. What is your sin? Christ is the cleansing fountain. God foreknew all but God provided all in Christ. Israel ran out of provisions in the wilderness. God provided all in Christ. God foreknew all our necessities and in Christ God has provided the full supply. He says, "My grace is sufficient for thee." He promises, "As thy days, so shall thy strength be." (Deut 33: 15)

To you without Christ, do you know you are sin? Do you know your own heart deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked? Has God divinely interrupted the false security you had? Has the bed become too narrow and the covers too short to wrap yourself in?

If so realize this, you just now know what you are, but God has known it all along. But the very wretch you find yourself to be is the exact kind of wretch God delights to show mercy too, in fact, the only kind. The good news of the gospel is, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." God the Father did not send his Son to save the righteous, but sinners. There is full forgiveness, full pardon to every sinner that trusts in the Lord Jesus.

Isaiah 1: 18: Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow, though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Isaiah 55: 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8 For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Amen!