

# CSI: Controversial Subject Investigated:

## Before the Foundation of the World

The Setting: Eternity Past  
The Evidence: Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 1:20; Revelation 13:8; John 17:24  
The Characters: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit  
The Controversy: Does “before the foundation of the world” apply to salvation?

*“Truth is incontrovertible. Ignorance may deride it.  
Malice may distort it. But there it is.”*  
WINSTON CHURCHILL

*“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”* (Ephesians 1:4). Before the foundation of the world, it was His desire that ALL His creation be holy and without blame. However, when Adam and Eve sinned, we ALL inherited the sin nature... *But*, God had already determined **before the foundation of the world** that a Savior would be needed, and in the process of time, He sent His Son.

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but **that the world through him might be saved**”* (John 3:16-17), and *“as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to **them that believe on his name**”* (John 1:12).

The next reference verifies **who** was foreordained before the foundation of the world to bring mankind to God. *“Who verily was **foreordained before the foundation of the world**, but was **manifest in these last times for you**”* (1 Peter 1:20). It speaks of Jesus’ sacrifice for our sins, decided before the foundation of the world.

Again, this next reference speaks of God the Father loving His Son:

*“Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for **thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world**”* (John 17:24). The part that people get hung up on is “whom thou hast given me,” as if God picks and chooses. He knows our hearts and He sees everything in real time, declaring the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10). Light is given (John 8:12), and the Holy Spirit draws **all** (John 12:32). Then it’s our choice to walk in the light we’ve been given and choose Christ.

Lastly, **before the foundation of the world, Jesus, the Lamb, was slain**. *“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of **the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world**”* (Revelation 13:8). The wording itself speaks to it, but grammatically, as well, the adjective phrase modifies the preceding noun.

~~~~~

Nothing has taken God by surprise. He saw it all and **planned** it before the foundation of the world. **The planning was what happened before the foundation of the world, just as Jesus would not be physically slain until the first century.**

*“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is **longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that ANY should perish, but that ALL should come to repentance**”* (2 Peter 3:9).

See our **CSI** blogs on **CHOSEN, ELECTION** and **PREDESTINATION** for more information.