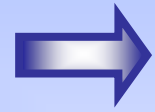


Chapter 6

Predestination

Theological controversy over predestination



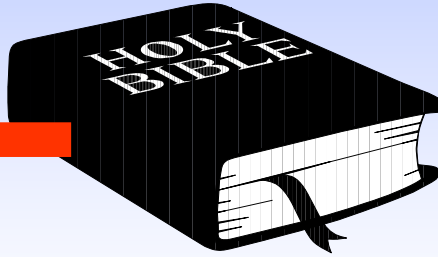
Confusion in religious life

- Theological controversy over predestination has caused great confusion in the religious lives of many people (p. 153).

Theological controversy over predestination

➡ **Confusion in religious life**

**Affirm
predestination**



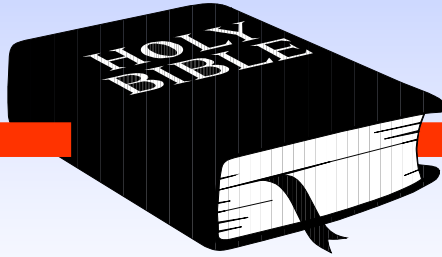
- **Prosperity and decline**
- **Happiness and misery**
- **Salvation and damnation**
- **Rise and fall of nations**

- In the Bible, we find many passages which are often interpreted to mean that everything in an individual's life – prosperity and decline, happiness and misery, salvation and damnation, as well as the rise and fall of nations – comes to pass exactly as predestined by God.

Theological controversy over predestination

➡ **Confusion in religious life**

**Affirm
predestination**



**Refute
predestination**

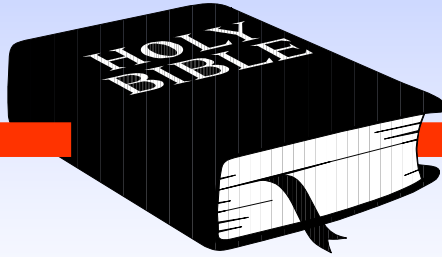
- **Prosperity and decline**
- **Happiness and misery**
- **Salvation and damnation**
- **Rise and fall of nations**

- Yet we can find sufficient evidence in the Bible to refute the doctrine of absolute predestination (p. 154).

Theological controversy over predestination

➡ **Confusion in religious life**

**Affirm
predestination**



**Refute
predestination**

- **Prosperity and decline**
- **Happiness and misery**
- **Salvation and damnation**
- **Rise and fall of nations**

- **There are ample grounds in the Bible to justify either of these two contrasting doctrines.**



Section 1

The Predestination of God's Will



Creation

- God could not accomplish His purpose of creation due to the human Fall. Accordingly, God's Will in carrying out His providence for fallen humanity is still to accomplish the purpose of creation.



Creation



Restoration

In this sense, God's Will is that restoration be accomplished
(p. 155).



Creation



Restoration



**Absolute, unique,
eternal, and
unchanging**



**Absolute, unique,
eternal, and
unchanging**

- God is the absolute Being, unique, eternal and unchanging; therefore, His Will must also be absolute, unique, eternal, and unchanging.



Creation



Restoration



**Absolute, unique,
eternal, and
unchanging**



**Absolute, unique,
eternal, and
unchanging**

Predestination of God's Will : absolute

- **God's** predestination of His Will is **absolute**.



Section 2

**The Predetermination
of the Way in Which
God's Will Is Fulfilled**

**Providence
of restoration**

God's Will **Absolute**

**Fulfillment
of
God's Will**



**Human
responsibility**

- Although God's Will of the providence of restoration is absolute and beyond human influence, its **fulfillment** necessarily requires the accomplishment of the **human** portion of responsibility (p. 156).

**Providence
of restoration**

God's Will **Absolute**

**Fulfillment
of
God's Will**

100 %

=

**God's
responsibility**

95 %

+

**Central
figure**

5 %

- God predestines the process of its accomplishment conditionally, contingent upon the five percent responsibility of the central figure, which must be completed in addition to the ninety-five percent responsibility of God (p. 157).

**Providence
of restoration**

God's Will Absolute

**Fulfillment
of
God's Will**

100 %

=

**God's
responsibility**

95 %

+

**Central
figure**

5 %

- The proportion of five percent is used to indicate that the human portion of responsibility is extremely small when compared to **God's** portion of responsibility.

**Providence
of restoration**

God's Will **Absolute**

**Fulfillment
of
God's Will**

100 %

=

**God's
responsibility**

95 %

+

**Human
responsibility**

5 %

Yet for human beings, this five percent is equivalent to one hundred percent of our effort.

**Providence
of restoration**

God's Will **Absolute**

**Fulfillment
of
God's Will**

=

**God's
responsibility**

+

**Human
responsibility**

100 %

95 %

5 %

Predestination of the fulfillment of God's Will : conditional

- The predestination of the fulfillment of God's Will is conditional.



Section 3

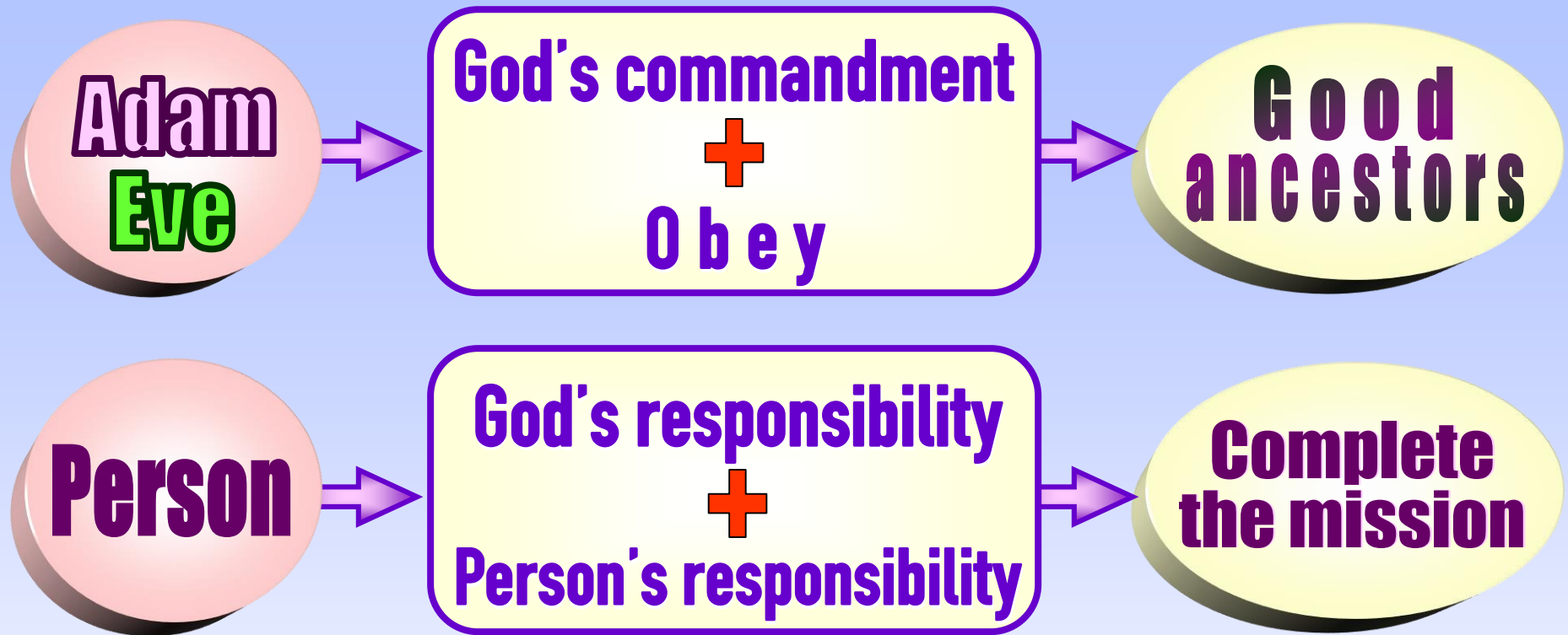
The Predetermination of Human Beings



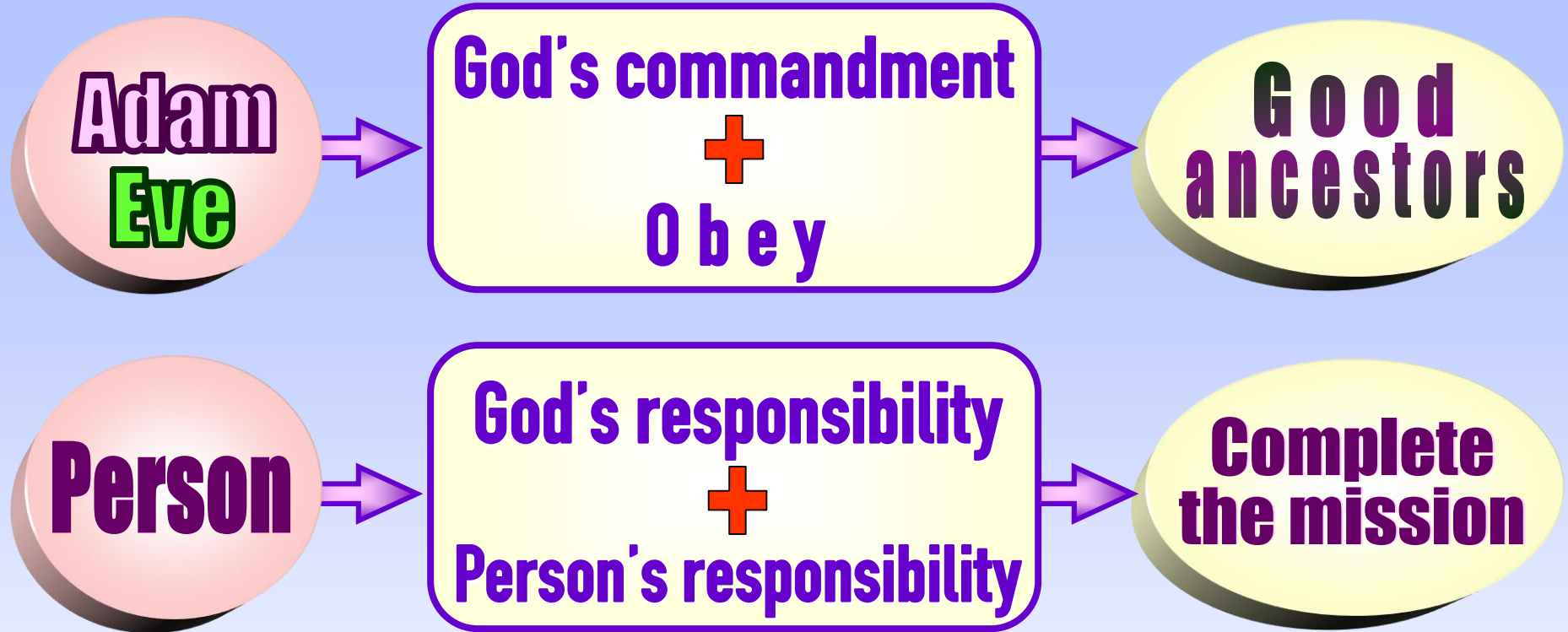
- Adam and Eve were to become the good ancestors of humanity, conditional upon fulfilling their responsibility to obey God's commandment not to eat of the fruit.



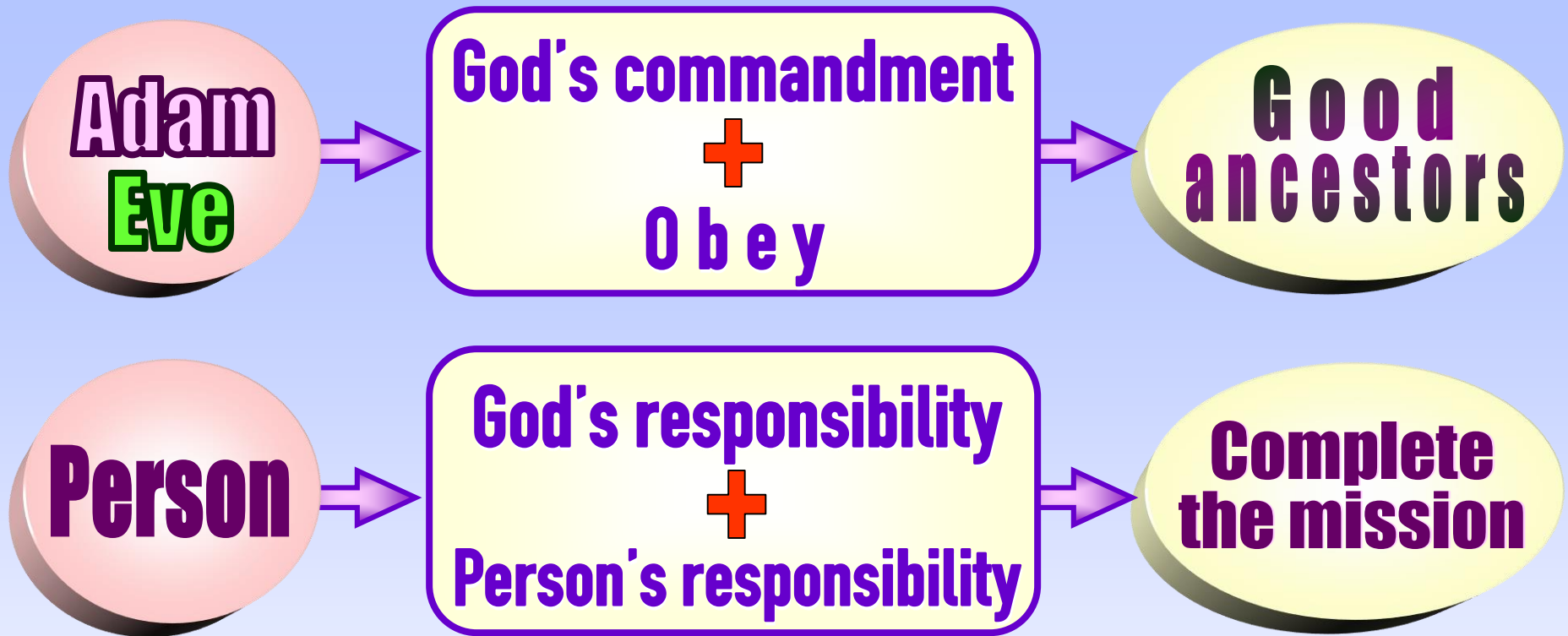
Accordingly, God did not absolutely predestine that Adam and Eve would become our good ancestors (p. 158).



- Even though God predestines someone for a particular mission, God's ninety-five percent responsibility and the person's five percent responsibility must be accomplished together before the person can complete his given mission and fulfill God's Will.



- If the person does not complete his responsibility, he cannot become the person God has purposed him to be.

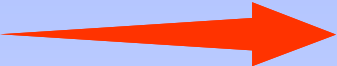



Predestination of human beings : conditional

- Predestination of human beings is conditional.

God's providence of salvation: one point  **Whole**

- God's providence of salvation begins from one point and gradually expands to cover the whole.

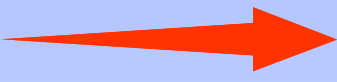
God's providence of salvation: one point  **Whole**
Predestination of the providence
of salvation: central figure  **Whole**

Therefore, in the providence of salvation, God first predestines one person to be the central figure and then calls him to a mission.

God's providence of salvation: one point  **Whole**
Predestination of the providence
of salvation: central figure  **Whole**
Qualifications of the central figure

- What qualifications should the person possess to merit such a calling? (p. 159)

God's providence of salvation: one point



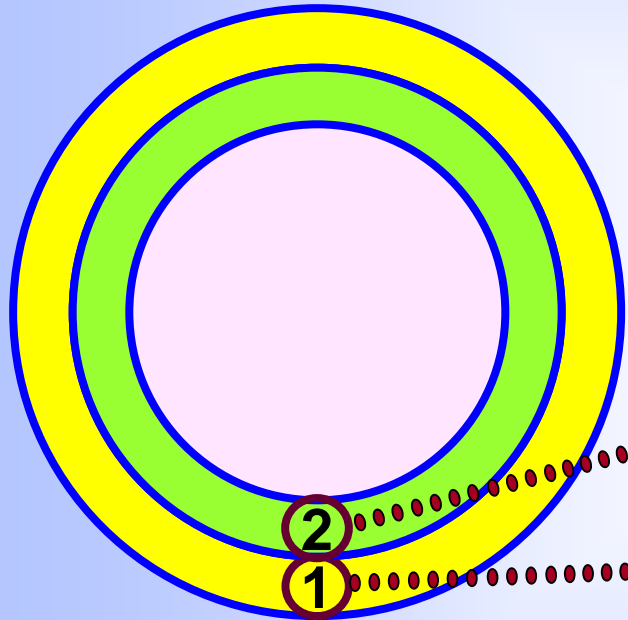
Whole

**Predestination of the providence
of salvation: central figure**



Whole

Qualifications of the central figure



**Ancestral line with many
good accomplishments**

Chosen people

- ① He must be born into the chosen people.
- ② He must come from an ancestral line with many good accomplishments.

God's providence of salvation: one point → **Whole**
Predestination of the providence of salvation: central figure → **Whole**

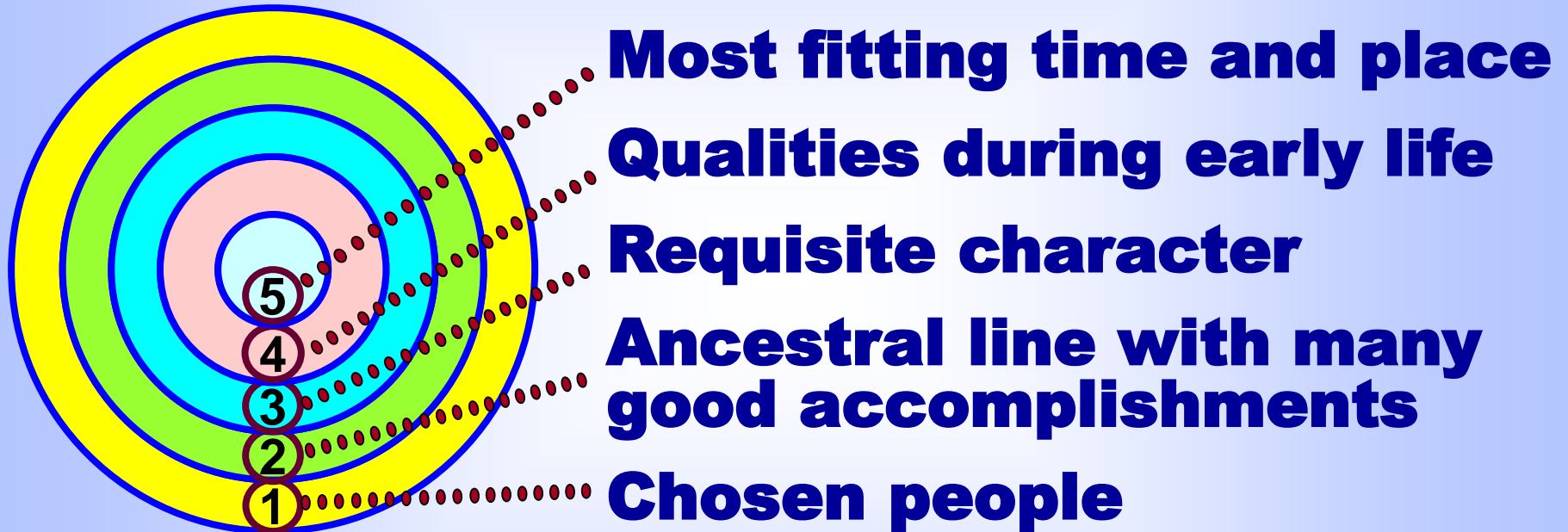
Qualifications of the central figure



- ③ He must be endowed with the requisite character.
- ④ He must develop the necessary qualities during his early life.

God's providence of salvation: one point → **Whole**
Predestination of the providence of salvation: central figure → **Whole**

Qualifications of the central figure



5 He must live in a time and place most fitting to God's need.



Section 4

**Elucidation of Biblical Verses
Which Support the Doctrine
of Absolute Predestination**

Rom. 8:29-30

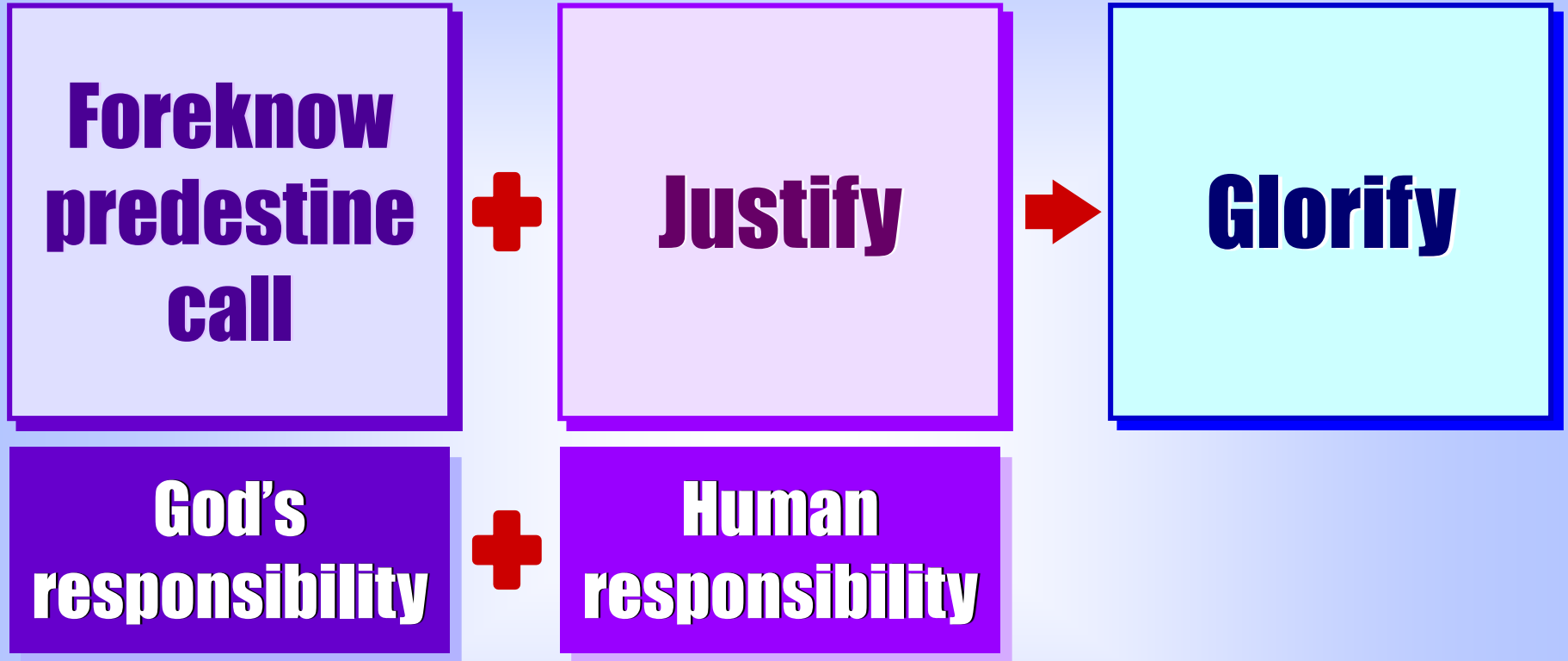
➡ (Words about human responsibility omitted)



- The book of Romans says: For those whom He **foreknew** He also predestined...those whom He predestined He also called; and those whom He called He also justified; and those whom He justified He also glorified (Rom. 8:29-30).

Rom. 8:29-30

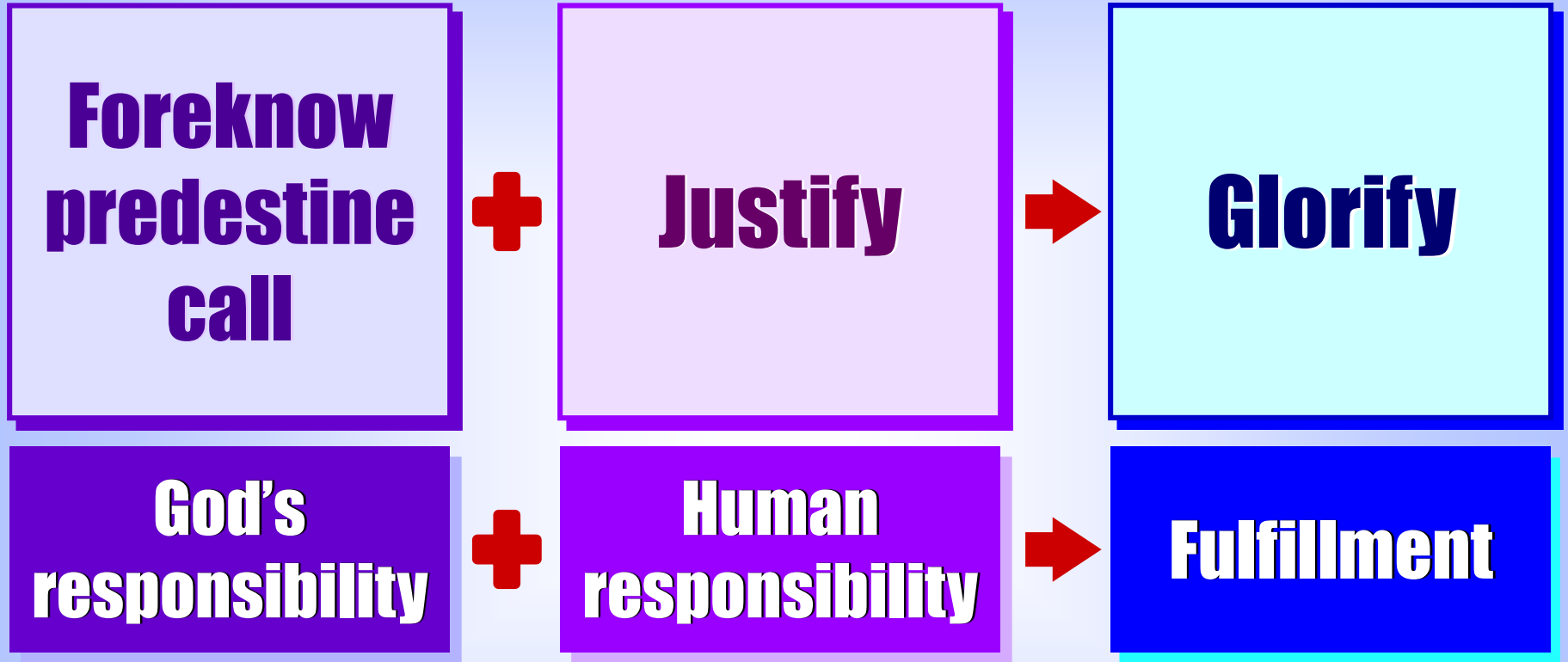
➡ (Words about human responsibility omitted)



- God predestines those whom He foreknows; then He calls upon them to fulfill the purpose of the providence. Calling the person is God's responsibility, but only when the person completes his responsibility after being called by God is he justified.

Rom. 8:29-30

➡ (Words about human responsibility omitted)



- Hence, God's predestination concerning an individual's glorification is thus contingent upon the fulfillment of his portion of responsibility (p. 160).

- **Absolute and complete predestination (Calvin)**
- **Believed even in our day**

- **People such as John Calvin have propounded the doctrine of absolute and complete predestination, which is widely believed even in our present day.**

Accomplishment of God's Will

- Depends solely on God

- Absolute and complete predestination (Calvin)
- Believed even in our day

- They have held to such a doctrine because they wrongly believed that the accomplishment of God's Will depends solely on the power and work of God.

Accomplishment of God's Will

- Depends solely on God
- Ignorance of relationship between God's and human responsibilities



- Absolute and complete predestination (Calvin)
- Believed even in our day

They were ignorant of the true relationship between God's portion of responsibility and the human portion of responsibility in the fulfillment of the purpose of the providence of restoration.

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our website**

<http://www.unificationstudy.com>