

The divine principles-subjects of the sovereign grace of God and man's responsibility run side by side throughout Scripture. These two important themes present the thoughts of God as to His counsels and purposes and also how man has been tested and failed in responsibility to God. In the scriptures relating to "before the foundation of the world" the truth of God's sovereignty is emphasized.

BEFORE AND FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD:

Scriptures referring to '**before the foundation of the world**' emphasize God's sovereignty, His purposes and counsels:

1. **Proverbs 8:23, 30, 31**

The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was... When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.

2. **John 17:5, 24**

And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee **before the world** was.

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**.

3. **Ephesians 1:4**

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:

4. **2 Timothy 1:9**

Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus **before the world began**,

5. **Titus 1:2**

In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised **before the world began**;

6. **1 Peter 1:20**

The Lamb of God - Who verily was foreordained **before the foundation** of the **world**, but was manifest in these last times for you.

In Scriptures referring to '**from the foundation of the world**' God's ways and man's responsibility are emphasized.

1. **Matthew 13:35**

In reference to the Kingdom - That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret **from the foundation** of the **world**.

2. **Matthew 25:34**

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you **from the foundation** of the **world**:

3. **Luke 11:50**

That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed **from the foundation** of the **world**, may be required of this generation;

4. **Hebrews 4:3**

For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished **from the foundation** of the **world**.

5. **Revelation 13:8**

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**.

6. **Revelation 17:8**

The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life **from the foundation** of the **world**, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

THE TEN GATES OF NEHEMIAH AND THE TWELVE EZEKIEL AND REVELATION:

God will not be thwarted by man's failures and in His counsels He will have His beloved Son exalted. The Father presents to Christ Jesus the gift of His bride and His earthly people for eternity.

The ten gates of Nehemiah 3 offer some contrast to the twelve gates of Ezekiel 48 and Revelation 21 relating to this subject. Ten is the number of human responsibility and is seen in Scripture with ten commandments, ten virgins and man being formed with ten fingers and ten toes. In Nehemiah the ten gates had been burned and man had failed terribly in his responsibility before God for the testimony of the unity of God's people.

The number twelve in contrast represents perfection in administration and is seen in the twelve gates, twelve disciples and twelve tribes of Israel. In Ezekiel 48 the twelve gates in the earthly millennial temple stand for perfection in administration and the same is true of the gates in Revelation 21 but seen as the bride in the heavenly sphere.

Both of these pictures speak out in illustration of how God's purposes in grace and His counsels will prevail in spite of man's failures.