

of the Greek verb *γινώσκω* "to know" is verified by its use to translate the Hebrew verb *יָדַעַ* meaning "to know" in such Old Testament passages as Amos 3:2 where we read, "You only have I known of all the families of the earth."⁹⁸ The Greek preposition *πρό* meaning "before" denotes that the time of this knowing was in eternity before the creation of the world. Thus the Greek clause *ὅτι οὓς προέγνω* which is translated "For whom he did foreknow" refers to those whom God chose from mankind in eternity before the creation of the world.

The Greek verb *προώρισεν* which is translated "he did predestinate" means "to foreordain or appoint beforehand."⁹⁹ The Greek phrase *συμμόρφους τῆς εἰκόνος τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ* which is translated "to be conformed to the image of his Son" denotes the end to which God foreordained those whom He chose from mankind, and that end is conformity to the character of His Son. The Greek clause *εἰς τὸ εἶναί αὐτὸν πρωτότοκον ἐν πολλοῖς ἀδελφοῖς* which is translated "that he might be the firstborn among many brethren" expresses the purpose for which God foreordained those whom He chose from mankind to be conformed to the character of His Son. The imagery of this clause represents God's Son as the Head of a multitude of saved people. Thus the Greek clauses *καὶ προώρισεν συμμόρφους τῆς εἰκόνος τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ, εἰς τὸ εἶναί αὐτὸν πρωτότοκον ἐν πολλοῖς ἀδελφοῖς* which are translated "he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among

⁹⁸Amos 3:2.

⁹⁹Thayer, *op. cit.*, p. 541.