

# Preface

Why a book about Destiny? Better yet, why a book about *your* destiny from a biblical worldview? When I have shared the ideas in this book with friends I have had two responses. One is genuine interest- people are very curious because “destiny” has become such a buzz-word in the 21st century. These days every strata of society is talking about destiny; everyone except the Christian community. That is a cultural fact worth looking into. Eastern religions and New Age thought is full of teachings about destiny. We who are Christians appear to be left out of this discussion as though our belief system does not include a strong sense of destiny. This brings me to the second response. Most Christians have a sense that “destiny” is only for others but not in the “life on earth” package for them. The only destiny most Christians think about is their final “destiny-ation”—Heaven. There is a misconception that all faith in Christ has to offer is personal forgiveness of sins and then heaven when we die. This entire book is about disproving that false notion. We who are Christ-followers must see ourselves as destiny agents who are destined to bring in the Kingdom of God.

## **We Long to Belong**

The 2009 Academy Awards “Picture of the Year” award went to *Slum Dog Millionaire*; a movie centered on destiny. The movie follows a poor boy growing up in poverty in the slums of Mumbai, India. Jamal Malik, the young boy, is the slum dog. Jamal is an eighteen year old mysteriously “fated” to be a contestant on the Indian version of *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?* TV show. As destiny would have it, every question asked of him corresponded to an earlier life experience that gave him the answer to each question on the show. Conclusion- He was destined to win! Something or

## DESTINY: YOU AND GOD

Someone was at work in his life fulfilling his destiny. This very popular film is a mirror of the hopes and dreams of millions today. We yearn for meaning, value and purpose. In the midst of the chaos of our lives we want to believe our existence matters. At the end of the film when Jamal is reunited with his childhood sweetheart, Latika, he says to her, *"We were destined to be together."* Wow! What a story.

Most people who saw that film may not be aware of the Hindu worldview that is behind the story. Eastern mystics have long viewed our lives as controlled by some unseen, unknown force that determines our fate. What is even less known is that our Christian worldview is very much about our God and His destined purposes for us.

It is my observation that Christians don't speak of destiny because the English words "destiny" or "destined" have not been a part of the Christian's vocabulary. After all, the word destiny is a "Johnny come lately" to biblical vocabulary. Only recent English versions of the Bible use the word "destiny" to translate a few Hebrew or Greek ideas. Conversely, in recent years ideas of "being destined" have consumed modern thought, media, and literature. One must ask why this is so important to today's pop culture and society in general? There are strong reasons for the current obsession with destiny which need to be understood. So, stay with me while I show you how to find your God given destiny and thus find life to be the thrill ride we all seek! Who knows maybe you were destined to read this book. It is all about God and you fulfilling your specific destiny.