



# Cherreguine Bible Doctrine Ministries

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## THE DIVINE DECREE

The decrees of God are His eternal, unchangeable, holy, wise, and sovereign purpose, comprehending at once all things that ever were or will be in their causes, conditions, successions, and relations, and determining their certain futurity. The several contents of this one eternal purpose, because of the limitation of our faculties, necessarily conceived of by us in partial aspects, and in logical relations, and are therefore called Decrees.

The decree being the act of an infinite, absolute, eternal, unchangeable, and sovereign Person, comprehending a plan including all His works of all kinds, great and small, from the beginning of creation to an unending eternity; ends as well as means, causes as well as effects, conditions and instrumentalities as well as the events which depend upon them, must be incomprehensible by the finite intellect of man.<sup>1</sup>

The decrees are eternal (Acts 15: 18; Ephesians 1:4; 2 Thessalonians 2:13), unchangeable (Psalms 33:11; Isaiah 46:9), and comprehend all things that come to pass (Ephesians 1:11; Matthew 10:29, 30; Ephesians 2:10; Acts 2:23; 4:27, 28; Psalm 17:13, 14). The decrees of God are:

- (1.) Efficacious, as they respect those events He has determined to bring about by His own immediate agency; or
- (2.) Permissive, as they respect those events He has determined that free agents shall be permitted by Him to effect.

This doctrine ought to produce in our minds "humility, in view of the infinite greatness and sovereignty of God, and of the dependence of man; confidence and implicit reliance upon wisdom, righteousness, goodness, and immutability of God's purpose.

God's decree is a theological term for the comprehensive plan for the world and its history, which the sovereignty of God established in eternity. Paul refers to "the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with His will (Ephesians 1:11).

The decrees of God are His eternal purpose, according to the counsel of His will, whereby, for His own glory, He hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.

The decree of God is His eternal and immutable will regard the future existence of events, which will happen in time and regarding the precise order and manner of their occurrence.<sup>2</sup>

Under the divine decree, the will of God refers to God's decision, which He has made in the eternity past from His attribute of sovereignty, which established that certain things would

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<sup>1</sup> See diagram 1 –page 121

<sup>2</sup> See figure 13 –page 135

actually come into being while other things would not. This is His sovereign choice as to what will take place in time. Nothing can exist apart from His decision to make it exist.

Many things that occur are results of angelic or human free will acting contrary to God's desires. God nevertheless decided or willed that these things would take place. Thus He makes our volition truly free.

Divine decree has rendered all things as certain to occur –He decided that they would exist. Because God decreed that we would have free will, He also decreed that all of our decisions- whatever they might be, would certainly take place-even those contrary to His desires.

The divine decrees are the eternal plan of God by which God has rendered certain all of the events of the universe both human and angelic history.