



Cherreguine Bible Doctrine Ministries

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THE DIVINE DECREE IS NOT SECRET

The purpose of God's heart through all generations is clearly revealed (Psalms 33:10-11). Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails (Proverbs 19:21).

The decree of God is largely secret and unrevealed but only to the unbelievers and ignorant believers –they have no awareness of God's decree.

Biblical prophecy reveals key features of God's eternal plan. The first such prophecy was the promise of a Deliverer from the seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15), which runs throughout the entire Scripture. Isaiah frequently refers to God's decree and contrasts Yahweh with the idols; He makes "known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come," and His "purpose will stand" (Isaiah 14: 24-27)

Some portion of God's decree, have not yet carried out in history but only revealed by prophecy, yet provides the basis for the Christian's hope for the second coming of Jesus Christ in glory, for the consummation of God's kingdom, and for life everlasting in the new heaven and the new earth.

The divine decree is not inconsistent with human freedom and significant human history – every individual is totally responsible for his own life because he alone creates his own history. Divine decree is not limited to foreknowledge of future events and God cannot compromise with human initiative and cooperation.

The perfect foreknowledge of God is related and limited only to believers.

Traditional objections to divine decree are:

1. It is inconsistent with human free will or volition
2. It is inconsistent with human responsibility
3. It makes human history meaningless
4. It makes God responsible for all the sins of all men.

The illustration of Christ's crucifixion provides an answer to such objections. Failure to distinguish the will of decree and the complex ways of its execution, may lead to fatalistic or deterministic concepts of God's decree. Then humans are considered robots and history is viewed as a programmed computer.

The importance of history is promoted, at least in part, by the secret, unrevealed nature of God's decree and His demand that our lives be governed by such revealed commands.

Adam's fall and Christ's crucifixion were included in God's decree –He did not force the outcome. Humans acted freely but irresponsibly; they did precisely what God commanded them not to do.

The divine decree or God's will for the believers are all written in the pages of the Scripture –but the blind cannot find them. The teaching of the Bible is secret only for those without spiritual eyes (that provides spiritual capacity to see Christ in the pages of Scripture using the eyes of their souls) [Ephesians 1:17-18]. This is called spiritual perception –it is more than illumination.

Under the divine decree, the doctrine of illumination relates to that ministry of the Holy Spirit that helps the believer understand the truth of Scripture. In relation to the Bible, the divine revelation relates to the unveiling of truth from the Scriptures.