



Cherreguine Bible Doctrine Ministries

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THE PURPOSE OF THE DIVINE DECREE

God knows everything that is knowable and there is nothing that He needs to know- He knew ahead of time precisely what would exist but He also decreed the exact manner, consistent with His integrity, in which He would handle our decisions.

God knew exactly every decisions we are to make during our entire lifespan-He knew every error and bad decisions but He will never intervene with our decisions -whether bad or good.

The divine decree is the chosen and adopted plan of all God's works- it is God's eternal purpose, according to the counsels of His own will, whereby for His own glory He has foreordained whatever comes to pass. There are no points of similarity between God's decree and the decrees of human rulers, but there are important differences that are distinct. We have to distinguish God's will of decree from the will of precept; a closer parallel exists between God's will of precept and human decrees.

THE WILL OF PRECEPTS refers to the commands and laws that God sets for his creatures, commands which call for obedience but which are often transgressed.

THE WILL OF DECREE, on the other hand, refers to the eternal, perfect, all-comprehensive, unchangeable, and efficacious plan of God, which is carried out in history. The decree of God is the sovereign choice of the divine will (God's sovereignty) and mentality (God's omniscience) by which all things are brought into being and controlled-made subject to His pleasure and producing His glorification (Isaiah 46:10). The Trinity pre-existed everything and every creature. No one is above God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. No one originated God for God has no origin.

HUMAN DECREES (like those of Darius's order to worship the image (Daniel 6:7-12), Cyprus's command to rebuild the temple (Ezra 5:13), and Caesar's decree for a census (Luke 2:1; Acts 17:7) are not similar to divine decrees.

"Decree" (dogma) is also used for the decisions of the Jerusalem Council (Acts 16:4) as well as for various Jewish legal regulations, ordinances, or rules (Ephesians 2:15; Colossians 2:14-15). Similar terms are used for God's decree against the king of Babylon (Daniel 4:24), for His decree concerning rain and the sea (Job 28:26; Proverbs 8:29), and for His laws governing human life (Psalms 119:5, 8, 12).

There are also instances where God's decree refers to His regulations issued in history (Exodus 15:25; Romans 1:32).

Sometimes it is difficult to distinguish a decree that is the historical revelation, which is part of God's eternal plan from a regulation or order of God's in history that does not specifically refer to the eternal decree (see Psalm 2:7).

The discussion of God's decree is generally restricted to the eternal plan established before the creation of the world. In contrast to every human ruler, God has always existed. He existed before He created the world, and His decree or eternal plan was established before the creation.