

SUNDAY SERMON

Willow, Alaska

Date: February 17, 2019

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 46:10

Text: Multiple

Subject: CONFESSION OF FAITH SERIES – God’s Eternal Decrees

3. God’s Eternal Decrees

God hath decreed in Himself before the world was, concerning all things which occur with all of the circumstances of them, to work, dispose, and bring about all things according to the counsel of His own will, to His glory (yet without being the author of sin, or having fellowship with any therein): in which appears His wisdom in disposing all things and His unchangeableness, power and faithfulness in accomplishing His decree. And God hath before the foundation of the world foreordained some men to eternal life through Jesus Christ to the praise and glory of His grace, writing their names in the Lamb’s Book of Life; and then sending His only begotten Son to save His people from their sins; having foreordained and leaving the rest in sin to their just condemnation to the praise of His justice.

Is.46:10; Eph.1:11; Ro.11:33; Ps.115:3; 135:6; 1Sa.10:9, 26; Prv.21:1; Ex.21:13; Pv.16:33; Ps.144; Is.45:7; Jer.14:22; Mt.6:28, 30; Ac.13:48; Col.1:16, 17; Nu.23:19, 20; Ro.3:4; Jer.10:10; Eph.1:4, 5; Jude4-6; Pv.16:4; 2Th.2:13, 14; Re.13:8, 17:8; Mt.1:21; Jn.10:11, 28, 29.

Speaking about God’s Eternal Decrees, we need to define the term decree. The Hebrew word which is translated decree in Psalms 148:6 is *ḵoq* *choq khome*. It is also translated as “statute 87, ordinance 9, decree 7, due 4, & law 4.” The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines the decree as

“One of the eternal purposes of God whereby events are foreordained.” The Greek word which is translated as decree is: *diatheke dee-ath-ay'-kay*. It is defined in *Strong's* and *Young's* concordances as: a compact, a covenant, or a testament. The verb decree means: To decide or determine authoritatively: to pronounce by decree. Consider all of these things, we could say that God's decrees are the same as the purposes or plan of God. This speaks of God's pleasure in doing all things after the counsel of His own will.

CF: Ro 8:28 (KJV) *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his **purpose**.*

The Greek word translated as purpose is “*προθεσις prothesis*” which is also translated as “shewbread” which speaks of “a setting forth of a thing, placing of it in view, the shewbread.” Thus, God's purpose is clearly set forth in working all things together for the good of those who love God. We see that in the following verses as well.

Ro 9:10-12 (KJV) *And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac; **11** (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, **that the purpose of God according to election might stand**, not of works, but of him that calleth;) **12** It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger.*

Eph 1:10-11 (KJV) *That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: **11** In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, **being predestinated according***

to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

Eph 3:8-11 (KJV) *Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; 9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: 10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, 11 **According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:***

It is very important that we make a distinction between scriptural proof of the decrees or purpose of God and the closely related article entitled "The Providence of God." The providence of God follows the Fall of Man (No. 4) and will prove this statement:

5. God's Providence

God in His infinite power and wisdom, directs all things to the purpose for which they were created; that neither good nor evil befalls any by chance or without His providence; and that whatsoever befalls the elect is by His appointment for His glory and their good.

Let us then, examine the statements and proof texts which show the decrees of God – his plan or purpose.

- **God hath decreed in Himself before the world was, concerning all things which occur with all of the circumstances of them, to work, dispose, and bring about all things according to the counsel of His own will, to His glory (yet without being the author of sin, or having**

fellowship with any therein): in which appears His wisdom in disposing all things and His unchangeableness, power and faithfulness in accomplishing His decree.

Isa 46:9-10 (KJV) *Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, **10** Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, **My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:***

Eph 1:11 (KJV) *In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated **according to the purpose** of him who worketh all things **after the counsel of his own will:***

Ro 11:33 (KJV) *O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! **how unsearchable are his judgments,** and his ways past finding out!*

Ps 115:3 (KJV) *But our God is in the heavens: **he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.***

Ps 135:6 (KJV) ***Whatsoever the LORD pleased,** that did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.*

1Sa 10:9 (KJV) *[Of Saul] And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day.*

1Sa 10:26 (KJV) *And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched.*

Pr 21:1 (KJV) *The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.*

Ex 21:13 (KJV) *And if a man lie not in wait, but God deliver him into his hand; then I will appoint thee a place whither he shall flee.*

Pr 16:33 (KJV) *The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD.*

Ps 144:1-15 (KJV) *A Psalm of David. Blessed be the LORD my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight: 2 My goodness, and my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; my shield, and he in whom I trust; who subdueth my people under me. 3 LORD, what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him! or the son of man, that thou makest account of him! 4 Man is like to vanity: his days are as a shadow that passeth away. 5 Bow thy heavens, O LORD, and come down: touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. 6 Cast forth lightning, and scatter them: shoot out thine arrows, and destroy them. 7 Send thine hand from above; rid me, and deliver me out of great waters, from the hand of strange children; 8 Whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood. 9 I will sing a new song unto thee, O God: upon a psaltery and an instrument of ten strings will I sing praises unto thee. 10 It is he that giveth salvation unto kings: who delivereth David his servant from the hurtful sword. 11 Rid me, and deliver me from the hand of strange children, whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood: 12 That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace: 13 That our garners may be full, affording all manner of store: that our sheep may bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our streets: 14 That our oxen may be strong to*

*labour; that there be no breaking in, nor going out; that there be no complaining in our streets. **15** Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the LORD.*

Isa 45:7 (KJV) *I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.*

Jer 14:22 (KJV) *Are there any among the vanities of the Gentiles that can cause rain? or can the heavens give showers? art not thou he, O LORD our God? therefore we will wait upon thee: for thou hast made all these things.*

Mt 6:28-30 (KJV) *And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: **29** And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. **30** Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?*

- **And God hath before the foundation of the world foreordained some men to eternal life through Jesus Christ to the praise and glory of His grace, writing their names in the Lamb's Book of Life; and then sending His only begotten Son to save His people from their sins; having foreordained and leaving the rest in sin to their just condemnation to the praise of His justice.**

Ac 13:48 (KJV) *And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.*

Col 1:16-17 (KJV) *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be*

thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Nu 23:19-20 (KJV) [Balaam to Balak] *God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good? 20 Behold, I have received commandment to bless: and he hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it.*

Ro 3:4 (KJV) *God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.*

Jer 10:10 (KJV) *But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.*

Eph 1:4-5 (KJV) *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,*

Jude 4-6 (KJV) *For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. 5 I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. 6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in*

everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

Pr 16:4 (KJV) *The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.*

2Th 2:13-14 (KJV) *But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: **14** Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Re 13:8 (KJV) *And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

Re 17:8 (KJV) *The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.*

Mt 1:21 (KJV) *And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

Joh 10:11 (KJV) *I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*

Joh 10:28-29 (KJV) *And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. **29** My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*

In all these scriptures, we have seen the purpose or decrees of God about all things which occur in time.

- We see how God moves and changes events according to the counsel of his own will.
- We have seen how God brings to pass the heart changes and conversion of those He has purposed to save from before the foundation of the world.
- And we have seen that the wicked angels and men are reserved to judgment which will magnify God's justice.
- Every one of us truly know from this overwhelming evidence of scripture that God set forth His plan for everything that happens in time.