

1 Decrees of God

2 What are the decrees of God?

- The decrees of God are his eternal purpose, according to the council of his will, whereby, for his own glory, he has foreordained whatsoever shall come to pass.

3 What are the decrees of God?

- God is unchangeable in his essence, and his is unchangeable in his decrees; his counsel shall stand. He decrees the issue of all things, and carries them on to their accomplishment by his providence. (Thomas Watson)

4 THE DECREE OF GOD IS HIS PURPOSE OR DETERMINATION

- “The decrees of God relate to all future things without exception: whatever is done in time was foreordained before time began.” (Pink)

5

- Psalm 50:21 21 These things you have done, and I have been silent; you thought that I was one like yourself. But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you.

6 The Decrees of God

- There is much that we can't fully understand about this subject

7

- “Let those for whom this seems harsh consider for a little while how bearable their squeamishness is in refusing a thing attested by clear Scriptural proofs because it exceeds their mental capacity, and find fault that things are put forth publicly, which if God had not judged useful for men to know, he would never have bidden his prophets and apostles to teach. For our wisdom ought to be nothing else than to embrace with humble teachableness, and at least without finding fault, whatever is taught in sacred Scripture.”
- — John Calvin

8 Reasons for Our Ignorance

9 Reasons for Our Ignorance

- We are finite

10 Reasons for Our Ignorance

- We are finite

•

- We are sinful

11 Reasons for Our Ignorance

- We are finite

•

- We are sinful

12 We have no right to demand a why

13

- Job 38:1-5 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: 2 "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? 3 Dress for action¹ like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. 4 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. 5 Who determined its measurements - surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?

14  **Our Duty**

15  **Our Duty**

- 1. To seek to learn all the facts made known by reason and revelation

16  **Our Duty**

- 1. To seek to learn all the facts made known by reason and revelation
-
- 2. To accept them

17  **Our Duty**

- 1. To seek to learn all the facts made known by reason and revelation
-
- 2. To accept them
-
- 3. To recognize them as the testimony of God

18  **Our Duty**

- 1. To seek to learn all the facts made known by reason and revelation
-
- 2. To accept them
-
- 3. To recognize them as the testimony of God
-
- 4. Admit that our knowledge is imperfect
-
- 5. To refuse on account of difficulties to reject what God has taught

19  **Our Duty**

- 1. To seek to learn all the facts made known by reason and revelation
-
- 2. To accept them
-
- 3. To recognize them as the testimony of God
-
- 4. Admit that our knowledge is imperfect
-
- 5. To refuse on account of difficulties to reject what God has taught
-
- 6. To believe that whatever the teaching is, it must accord with justice wisdom and holy perfection, because it is God of whom these things affirm.

20 Properties of divine decrees

- Eternal
-
- Wise
-
- Free
-
- Absolute and Unconditional

21 Eternal

- “Any such plan or purpose of God must have been formed eternally within himself.”
James P. Boyce

22 Eternal

- 1. It must have been eternally purposed

23 Eternal

-
- It is also to be remembered that the plan must precede its execution, but as time began with that execution, the plan could not have been formed in time, and must be eternal.”—James P. Boyce

24 Eternal

- Psalm 139:16 16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there were none of them.

25 Eternal

- Job 14:5 5 Since his days are determined, and the number of his months is with you, and you have appointed his limits that he cannot pass,

26 Wise

27 Wise

- Romans 9:13-23 13 As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated." 14 What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! 15 For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." 16 So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." 18 So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills. 19 You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" 20 But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" 21 Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honored use and another for dishonorable use? 22 What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory

28 **Wise**

- Romans 11:33-36 33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! 34 "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" 35 "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" 36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

29 **Wise**

- Romans 8:28 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, 1 for those who are called according to his purpose.

30 **Free**

31 **Free**

- Romans 9:10-13 10 And not only so, but also when Rebecca had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, 11 though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad - in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of his call - 12 she was told, "The older will serve the younger." 13 As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

32 **Free**

- Isaiah 40:13-14 13 Who has measured¹ the Spirit of the LORD, or what man shows him his counsel? 14 Whom did he consult, and who made him understand? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding?

33 **Absolute and Unconditional**

34 **Absolute and Unconditional**

- God works within time, through free actions of man to accomplish his eternal purpose

35 **Absolute and Unconditional**

- God works through the sinful actions of humanity to accomplish his eternal purpose

36 **Absolute and Unconditional**

- Genesis 50:20-21 20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people¹ should be kept alive, as they are today. 21 So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

37 Examples of God's Decree in Scripture

38 Examples of God's Decree in Scripture

- David says God planned every one of his days before he existed
-
- Psalm 139:16 16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there were none of them.

39 Examples of God's Decree in Scripture

- It was God's plan that Jesus would be put to death
-
- Acts 2:22-23 22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know - 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

40 Examples of God's Decree in Scripture

- Our salvation was determined before the world was created
-
- Ephesians 1:3-10 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us¹ for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known¹ to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

41 Examples of God's Decree in Scripture

- God prepared the good works that we as believers would do
-
- Ephesians 2:10 0 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

42 God and Chance

43 **God and Chance**

- Proverbs 16:33 33 The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

44 **God and Chance**

- Matthew 10:29-31 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? 1 And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

45 **God and Chance**

- Acts 17:24-28 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, 1 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. 26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, 27 that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, 28 for "'In him we live and move and have our being'; 1 as even some of your own poets have said, "' For we are indeed his offspring.' 2

46 **Man's Responsibility**

47 **Man's Responsibility**

- The Bible declares that God has declared whatever has come to pass and it also declare that man is fully responsible for all of his sin.

48 **Man's Responsibility**

- James 1:13-14 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

49 **Man's Responsibility**

- Jesus was crucified by a decree of God
-
- Acts 2:22-23 22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know - 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

50

- How should when then live in light of this knowledge

51 **THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR HUMAN ACTIONS**

52 **THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR HUMAN ACTIONS**

- 1. WE ARE STILL RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR ACTIONS

53 **THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR HUMAN ACTIONS**

- 1. WE ARE STILL RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR ACTIONS
-

- 2. OUR ACTIONS HAVE REAL RESULTS AND DO CHANGE THE COURSE OF EVENTS

54  **THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR HUMAN ACTIONS**

- 1. WE ARE STILL RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR ACTIONS
-
- 2. OUR ACTIONS HAVE REAL RESULTS AND DO CHANGE THE COURSE OF EVENTS
-
- 3. PRAYER IS ONE SPECIFIC KIND OF ACTION THAT HAS DEFINITE RESULTS AND THAT DOES CHANGE THE COURSE OF EVENTS

55  **THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR HUMAN ACTIONS**

- 1. WE ARE STILL RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR ACTIONS
-
- 2. OUR ACTIONS HAVE REAL RESULTS AND DO CHANGE THE COURSE OF EVENTS
-
- 3. PRAYER IS ONE SPECIFIC KIND OF ACTION THAT HAS DEFINITE RESULTS AND THAT DOES CHANGE THE COURSE OF EVENTS

56  **Scripture affirms that if you ask in prayer, it will be given to you**

- James 4:2 2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.
-
- John 16:24 24 Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

57  **IN CONCLUSION, WE MUST ACT!**

58  **Decrees of God**