

**The 1689 Confession of Faith; Chapter 3, Paragraph 1 – “Of God’s Decree”,  
Message # 4 – “God’s Appointments & Determinations”, Presented in the  
Adult Sunday School Class by Pastor Paul Rendall,  
on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.**

**Paragraph 1** – “God hath decreed in himself, from all eternity, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely and unchangeably(1), all things, whatsoever comes to pass(2); yet so as thereby is God neither the author of sin nor hath fellowship with any therein(3); nor is violence offered to the will of the creature, nor yet is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established(4); in which appears his wisdom in disposing all things, and power and faithfulness in accomplishing his decree.”(5)

1) Proverbs 19: 21; Isaiah 14: 24-27; 46: 10, 11; Psalm 115: 3; 135: 6; Romans 9: 19

2) Daniel 4: 34, 35; Romans 8: 28; 11: 36; Ephesians 1: 11

3) Genesis 18: 25; James 1: 1; 1<sup>st</sup> John 1: 5

4) Genesis 50: 20; 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 24: 1; Isaiah 10: 5-7; Matthew 17: 12; John 19: 11; Acts 2: 23; Acts 4: 27, 28

5) Numbers 23: 19; Ephesians 1: 3-5

**Question 7 – What are the Decrees of God?**

**Answer:** “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.”

**Question 8 – How doth God execute His Decrees?**

**Answer:** God executes His decrees in the works of creation and providence.

**Today we want to talk about God’s decrees, looking at them as His Divine appointments.**

**Why is it called an appointment or a determination?**

**Answer:** Because it is fixed by the highest authority.

**Isaiah 44: 7 & 8** – “And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let them show these to them. Do not fear, nor be afraid; have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.”

Who can proclaim as God does? No one can. It may be understood as saying – Who can decree as I do, where all is determined and appointed by Me according to the counsel of My will? If someone thinks that they can proclaim as God does, let them do so and let them set it in order for God. But this cannot be, for God alone decrees infallibly so that whatever He decrees and whatever He states prophetically in the Bible comes to pass. Can any man tell the things that are coming, and show these to other people infallibly? No, and all that they are able to explain is because they know the truth of what has been revealed to them in God’s word, the Bible. And so, we should not fear, nor be afraid of any man’s decrees. Has not God told us in the Scriptures all that we need to know of what He has decreed? He has given us the outline of Church History in prophecy, and He has made us His witnesses. Is there any God besides Him? No, and God tells

us that there is no other Rock in which we need to hide or cling to, besides Him. He knows not one, and if He knows not one, surely we do not know one either.

**Hebrews 9: 27 & 28** – “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many.” “To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”

Death is God’s appointment it says here. It was appointed when Adam sinned and broke the Covenant of Works in the Garden of Eden. And after death comes the appointment of judgment; either separation from God in outer darkness to await the judgment of the Great Day, or to be brought to heaven itself, into the very presence of Christ, and there to await the glorious resurrection on the Last Day. To those who eagerly wait for Him, He will appear a second time, and that apart from His appearance to deal with our sins, as happened in His first Coming, His first appearing. This time He will appear for our complete salvation, our complete redemption, the redemption of our bodies, and to bring us into the glorious eternal state of the New Heavens and New Earth, in which will dwell righteousness.

**Acts 4: 27, 28** – “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.

You can see here that although Herod and Pontius Pilate believed that they were free to deal with the Lord Jesus according to their own evaluation of him, and the Jews and the Roman soldiers were instrumental in putting Christ to death, that all this had been decreed by God beforehand to happen; whatever His hand and purpose determined to do.