



The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 7. What are the decrees of God?
08/05/2020

Bibliography

- Beeke, Joel R. & Ferguson, Sinclair B. *Reformed Confessions Harmonized*. Baker Books, 1999.
- Calhoun, David. *Reformation & Modern Church History: Lesson 18, The Westminster Assembly*. Covenant Theological Seminary, 2006.
- Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity. Volume 2: The Reformation to the Present Day*. HarperSanFrancisco, 1985.
- Presbyterian Church in America. *The Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms*. The Christian Education and Publications Committee of the Presbyterian Church in America, 2007.
- Smith, Morton H. *Harmony of the Westminster Confession and Catechisms*. Tolle Lege Press, 2010.
- Ward, Rowland S. *A Short Introduction to the Westminster Assembly and its Work*. Tulip Publishing, 2019.
- Watson, Thomas. *A Body of Divinity*. Reformed Church Publications, 2009.



Contact

dbcummings@prochristo.com



Q&A

Q. 7. What are the decrees of God?

A. 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.



Decrees

- ... legal declaration

At the same time Tattenai the governor of the province Beyond the River and Shethar-bozenai and their associates came to them and spoke to them thus: "Who gave you a decree to build this house and to finish this structure?" (Ezra 5:3 ESV)



Q&A

Q. 7. What are the decrees of God?

A. 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.



Eternal Purpose

- ... becomes reality

The Lord of hosts has sworn:

“As I have planned,

so shall it be,

and as I have purposed,

so shall it stand ... (Isaiah 14:24 ESV)

- ... as king

For kingship belongs to the Lord,

and he rules over the nations. (Psalm 22:28 ESV)



Q&A

Q. 7. What are the decrees of God?

A. 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.



Counsel of His will

- ... formal guidance

So the men took some of their provisions, but did not ask counsel from the Lord. (Joshua 9:14 ESV)

- ... discernment

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2 ESV)



Q&A

Q. 7. What are the decrees of God?

A. 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.



His own glory

- ... not our glory

The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood. (John 7:18 ESV)

- ... but His glory

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence (2 Peter 2:3 ESV)



Q&A

Q. 7. What are the decrees of God?

A. 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.



Foreordained

- ... definite plan

this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. (Act 2:23 ESV)

- ... an inheritance

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:11-12 ESV)