

GOOD FRIDAY

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INTRO: A while ago my son and I were discussing Calvinism. I had an e-mail from a pastor friend, and he sent me some material and he stood strongly against Calvinism. What many people do not know about Calvinism he knew because he lives in a community filled with them. And many of them live very loose lives but they are all Christians because they are in a Calvinistic church and many grew up as Calvinists, therefore they are the elect, and how they live is not that important. They are fully traditionalists with not much spirituality in their lives. And so we were discussing this and he showed me a few clips by John Piper and one of the passages he mentioned in favor of Calvinism caught my interest. It is found in Acts 4:27-28. Verses 23-30 were read for us earlier so let us read verses 27-28 once more:

*27 "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*

*28 "to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.*

The day we commemorate today is the day Christ was crucified. Before we start on our text, I want to just point out that the Jews have been called Christ killers over the centuries. When I was going to Bible school we worked with a mission to Jews for some time. And the head of the little mission, Arvi Wilkinson, would quote this verse and point out it was the leaders of Gentiles and of Jews, and both Gentiles and Jews that were guilty of killing Christ.

Well, in these verses we have the crucifixion of Christ in view. And I want to seek to answer what God's hand and what His purpose had to do in determining Christ's death. Now notice that verse 28 says that God's hand and His purpose determined for Christ to be crucified. He was crucified when the Jews and Gentiles gathered against Him. We are going to seek to answer these questions: What part did God's hand have in the crucifixion of Christ? What part did His counsel have in it? And

what part did His determining have to do with it? God's hand and God's purpose were worked out by His determination or predestination.

## I. GOD'S HAND

### A. Views Of Others

Now our first question is, how was God's hand involved in the crucifixion of Christ?

Let me give you a few views of others:

JFB say, "Thy counsel" determined to be done by "Thy hand." In other words, God's counsel determined the crucifixion to be done by His hand.

Gill: By "the hand" of the Lord here is not meant, the grace and favour of God; or the power and providence of God; or his word of precept, his revealed will; but his secret will, the counsel of his will, the hidden purpose of his heart, the wise consultation of his mind, which is formed according to his infinite wisdom: so in #2Sa 14:19 it is said, "is not the hand of Joab with thee in all this?" that is, the head of Joab, the wise counsel of Joab; and so the Jewish writers interpret it, חָסָדוֹ, "his counsel" {o}: and so the word is explained here immediately..." As I understand Gill he is saying the hand of God here means the mind of God.

Bengal says: The order of the words is worthy of note. God's hand is felt sooner than His counsel. His power and wisdom are meant.

All of that is of very little help except one comment by Gill is worthy of some consideration. Let me explain the background to what he says. Turn to 2 Samuel 14. Absalom had been rejected by David and he was living elsewhere. There was a time when Amnon, Absalom's brother and both sons of David, abused Tamar and a few years later Absalom killed Amnon. Because of this he fled from Israel. Well, Joab, one of David's generals could see David missed Absalom and he also wanted him back. So he got a certain lady, told her exactly what to say to David. He knew David so well that he knew

exactly what David would do. So the old lady did as Absalom asked.

- 1 *So Joab the son of Zeruah perceived that the king's heart was concerned about Absalom.*
- 2 *And Joab sent to Tekoa and brought from there a wise woman, and said to her, "Please pretend to be a mourner, and put on mourning apparel; do not anoint yourself with oil, but act like a woman who has been mourning a long time for the dead.*
- 3 *"Go to the king and speak to him in this manner." So Joab put the words in her mouth.*
- 4 *And when the woman of Tekoa spoke to the king, she fell on her face to the ground and prostrated herself, and said, "Help, O king!"*
- 5 *Then the king said to her, "What troubles you?" And she answered, "Indeed I am a widow, my husband is dead.*
- 6 *"Now your maidservant had two sons; and the two fought with each other in the field, and there was no one to part them, but the one struck the other and killed him.*
- 7 *"And now the whole family has risen up against your maidservant, and they said, 'Deliver him who struck his brother, that we may execute him for the life of his brother whom he killed; and we will destroy the heir also.' So they would extinguish my ember that is left, and leave to my husband neither name nor remnant on the earth."*
- 8 *Then the king said to the woman, "Go to your house, and I will give orders concerning you."*
- 9 *And the woman of Tekoa said to the king, "My lord, O king, let the iniquity be on me and on my father's house, and the king and his throne be guiltless."*
- 10 *So the king said, "Whoever says anything to you, bring him to me, and he shall not touch you anymore."*
- 11 *Then she said, "Please let the king remember the LORD your God, and do not permit the avenger of blood to destroy*

anymore, lest they destroy my son." And he said, "As the LORD lives, not one hair of your son shall fall to the ground."

- 12 Therefore the woman said, "Please, let your maidservant speak another word to my lord the king." And he said, "Say on."
- 13 So the woman said: "Why then have you schemed such a thing against the people of God? For the king speaks this thing as one who is guilty, in that the king does not bring his banished one home again.
- 14 "For we will surely die and become like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. Yet God does not take away a life; but He devises means, so that His banished ones are not expelled from Him.
- 15 "Now therefore, I have come to speak of this thing to my lord the king because the people have made me afraid. And your maidservant said, 'I will now speak to the king; it may be that the king will perform the request of his maidservant.
- 16 'For the king will hear and deliver his maidservant from the hand of the man who would destroy me and my son together from the inheritance of God.'
- 17 "Your maidservant said, 'The word of my lord the king will now be comforting; for as the angel of God, so is my lord the king in discerning good and evil. And may the LORD your God be with you.'"
- 18 Then the king answered and said to the woman, "Please do not hide from me anything that I ask you." And the woman said, "Please, let my lord the king speak."
- 19 So the king said, "Is the hand of Joab with you in all this?" And the woman answered and said, "As you live, my lord the king, no one can turn to the right hand or to the left from anything that my lord the king has spoken. For your servant Joab commanded me, and he put all these words in the mouth of your maidservant.

What Gill is saying in his comment is that God's hand was in the crucifixion of Christ like Joab's hand was in the craftiness of this woman from Tekoa. It was not actually his hand, but his mind. If that is correct our passage could read:

28 *"to do whatever Your hand (even) Your purpose determined before to be done.*

Now that is a legitimate possibility as far as Greek grammar is concerned.

#### B. My View

Well, I want to give how I view the matter of God's hand and His counsel were involved in the crucifixion of Christ. Let me first take us forward to the involvement of God's counsel. I will explain it later but here is what we need to see. The NKJV say, 'to do whatever Your hand and your purpose determined before to be done.'

Where the NKJV has the word 'purpose' the KJV has 'counsel' instead and I believe that is more accurate. I believe the Triune God, all three Persons, were involved in determining what would be done, and we'll look at the word translated 'to determine' later. You see one person can determine something, but to take counsel requires more than one person. That God's eternal plan involved more than one Person of the Triune God, I think is clear from Scripture.

Turn to Revelation 13. In this verse we learn some interesting things. It says:

*Re 13:8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

The Lamb, Jesus Christ, was slain from the foundation of the world, not literally, because it happened literally some 4,000 years later. But it was in the plans of the Triune God at creation. 1 Peter 1:20 says:

20 *He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you...*

So Peter tells us this plan took place before creation. Here is what we must learn. Before God created the universe He knew what was going to happen if He created the universe. And knowing what would happen before it happened, which is His foreknowledge, He created the universe anyway. What did God's hand have to do with the crucifixion of Christ? He created the universe and mankind knowing that if He did so, Jesus would have to be born to save man, and if He was born He would be crucified. God knew that but He made man anyway. So we have to say His hand is involved in the event of this Good Friday day.

Let me show how that is so. God knew man would sin. Then God knew the second Person of the Triune God would be born of a woman to become a human being in order to die for mankind. God knew that if He sent a perfect human among sinners, they would kill Him. We know God knew this before He created the universe. 1 Peter 1:20 tells us so. There can be no argument of value against this fact. There are no secret decrees in this. It is wide open. It is plainly revealed.

And in creating mankind, God knew what would take place and He created mankind anyway. One cannot but acknowledge God had a hand in it. It is not that He personally had a hand in killing Christ. It is that He created the world knowing that if He did so Christ would be crucified by sinful man.

Turn now to John 17. Before God created the universe, the second Person of the Triune God agreed to suffering crucifixion when the time came. It is no secret decree either. I want you to see something amazing in John 17. We begin in verse 1:

1 *Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,*

2 *"as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.*

3 *"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

4 *"I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.*

5 *"And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*

In verse 5 we learn that Christ gave up His glory before creation! That is amazing! He laid His glory aside way back there. That is clear from this passage. In John 17:5 we learn that He laid this glory aside before the world existed. Then in Philipppians 2 we learn that Christ laid His glory aside to become man. This plan is no secret decree. It is plainly revealed. And Christ agreed to the plan, and He laid His glory aside. As I thought of this, I realized this may well be how He could show up at times in the OT without those who saw Him dying. He had already laid His glory aside.

So we go back to Acts 4. I believe that in part both what God's hand and what His counsel had to do with the crucifixion of Christ are indicated in the verses immediately prior to our text. So look at verses 23-24:

23 *And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them.*

24 *So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them,*

Here we have, I think, why in our text they said God's hand was involved in all this. He created the universe knowing what would happen. So before they said these words of verses 27-28:

27 *"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*

28 *"to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before  
to be done.*

They said these words in verse 24:

24 *And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God  
with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which  
hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that  
in them is:*

By creating heaven and earth, God's hand had determined before what would be done. Man's sinfulness foretold what man would do if ever the Messiah came to earth.

So when we ask, just how was God's hand involved in the crucifixion of Christ? The answer is simple: By creation. Before they said that God's hand was involved they said, "Lord, you are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea and all that is in them.. You made it all. And when You made it all, You knew everything that would happen. You knew what would happen to mankind. You knew they would sin and You knew You would send Your Son, and You knew sinful man would crucify Him." We know that is true because Scripture is abundantly clear that God knows everything, He is omniscient.

Now once more, it is helpful if one sees the bigger picture. I believe God created man in order to be able to cast Satan into hell and leave all the rest of the angels with full proof that they were serving God by their own free will. God will use man and man's salvation by grace through faith to do this. The free will of angels will be up for question until God destroys Satan with full evidence that angels are truly serving by free will. God will then have proved that He did not make him so that he could not help but become



Satan, or that the angels could do nothing but glorify God or they would get the axe.

At the same time, by creating man He would bring to Himself a part of mankind that also chose Him of their own free will. The rest of mankind was not reprobated by God, they chose to reject God of their own free will.

So in Christianity we have two views, as there is also in Judaism and in modern psychology. We have the views of free will or forced will. In the Garden of Eden God gave man a number of commandments. A commandment is only of value if one can choose to disobey it. It has no value if one has no choice, or if man is made in such a way as not to be able to obey His commands. If man is made without a free will, there can be no glory for God. So God said they were to have dominion over the earth and they were to fill it with people and there was a tree He said they were not to eat from. A command is entirely useless if it cannot be disobeyed.

It is beyond all question, no matter which view one takes, that God knew in advance what would happen. He knew what Satan would do. He knew what man would choose. God also knew what He would do. And before creation God had planned that His Son would die for the world. The second Person of the Triune God agreed to this plan. He emptied Himself of His glory before creation. He laid His glory aside before the creation of the world. So in our text we asked, what part did God's hand have in the crucifixion of Christ? And I believe the text itself answers that question. It is by creating everything when He knew what would happen if He created mankind.

We commemorate Good Friday because of creation. Once creation had taken place, the future was determined by the choices God knew man would make of his own free will. Man would sin by his own choice and man's future would run its course, but not without God's intervention. He would provide a way of salvation that man also could

choose. And that salvation required a price and that price God and Jesus were willing to pay.

## II. GOD'S COUNSEL

Now our verse says that God's hand had determined before what would be done. So have now considered hand in the matter. We will look at this word translated 'determined' later. But our passage goes further than the involvement of God's hand and says that His purpose also determined what was to be done. When our text says the Jews and Gentiles gathered against Christ, that is the day we commemorate today. Notice now that verse 28 mentions another matter in which God was involved in the events of Good Friday. They were gathered against Him:

28 *"to do whatever Your hand **and Your purpose** determined before to be done.*

So we now want to consider how God's purpose was involved? Well, let us look at the original word translated 'purpose' in the NKJV. It is the word *boulee*. This word occurs 12 times in the NT. The KJV translates it as 'counsel' 10 times and 'will' once, and 'advise + will' once. So quite clearly the idea of *counsel* is predominant.

I think the KJV translation of *counsel* in our verse is better than to *determine*, as in the NKJV, although a counsel usually ends up determining something. The problem is one person can determine something, but to take counsel requires more than one person. God is more than one Person, and I believe the Triune God took counsel before creation. We have seen this earlier in Revelation 13:8 which says:

8 *All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

Consider first that for the Lamb to have been slain from the foundation of the world clearly tells us there was a plan. Second, one cannot imagine that One Person in the Triune God decided this and decided that the other would do what was planned. Beyond question, Triune God agreed on it. It

is very unlikely that the second Person of the Triune decided unilaterally to die on man's behalf. Without doubt, if it was a counsel they all had a say in the matter. Galatians 4:4 says, "But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman..." And so if God sent His Son, beyond all question, the Son agreed to this. And so it was in the plans that it would happen, as it also did. We have looked at 1 Peter 1:20 already but let us note it once more. It says:

20 *He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you*

Now the word 'foreordained' is unfortunate. The word translated 'foreordained' is *proginosko*. It does not mean to foreordain, it means 'to foreknow'. There is no thought of foreordination here. Let me illustrate. Let us say you are watching children play. And one child is climbing up onto something and you know what is going to happen but you are too late and the child falls. There is a huge difference between knowing what will happen and foreordaining that it happen. To foreknow and not be able to do something before it happens leaves you not being responsible for what happened. To foreordain it makes you responsible.

So now we ask, how was Christ foreknown before the foundation of the world? God had held a counsel and the Triune God agreed to make man. And God knew if He created man, man would sin and He would have to send the second Person of the Trinity to earth to become man, and if He would send the second Person of the Triune God to earth in human form, man would kill Him, not because God so made man that he had to do it, but because man with a sinful nature and a free will would do it.

When you get older you can look back at a younger person and many times you can foretell what he or she will do. If we, as mere humans can do that, what can God foretell when His thoughts are above ours as far as the heavens are over the earth? So let me ask this question: what forms the basis of God's counsel? On what ground does He decide things?

Turn to Ephesians 1. It speaks here of what the believer has inherited in Christ. Verse 11 then says:

*11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,*

Note first that the NKJV has translated the word *boulee* as counsel here. Now in this passage we learn some very important things about all of what has to do with what we have been studying. Notice that the believer has been predestined. Now let me say something about predestination first. The word 'to predestine' is never used of unbelievers. Only the believer has been predestined, and that is never to salvation. It is only after salvation. And God predestines the believer according to His purposes and His purposes are that which He sets out for the believer. And God works all things according to the counsel of His will. The word *counsel*, again, is *boulee*. And then notice on what His counsel is based. It is based on His will. What forms the basis of His counsel? His will.

And now we ask next, what is God's will based on? Beyond all doubt, it is based on His character or on His nature. And what is His character or nature like? It is 100% good. So when God made man, He knew man would sin. But it was not His will that man should sin. That is why it is not possible that God predetermined to reprobate the majority of mankind. That would be evil and evil is not possible with Him. So Scripture says plainly in 2 Peter 3:9:

*9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

God's will is that no one should perish. That is very clear and it is certainly good. If God reprobated the majority of mankind and made them so they cannot believe, His will and what He did contradict each other. That is not possible. And because He wanted none to perish is also why Jesus died for the whole world, meaning all of lost mankind. So

if God's counsel is based on His will, therefore He decided from His own counsel that if man would so choose, he would let man kill Christ. In His foreknowledge He knew this would happen.

Now look at our verses in Acts again:

23 *And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them.*

24 *So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them,*

Here we have, I think, the involvement of God's hand. By creating everything, the outcome would be Christ's death. And then note verse 25 we now have evidence of His counsel. It says:

25 *"who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: 'Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things?*

You see, that man was going to kill Christ was known by God long before it was prophesied by David and it was prophesied about a thousand years before it happened. And how was it that God knew beforehand what would happen? Well, God took counsel before He created the universe and decided to make man in spite of the fact that he would fall into sin and in spite of the fact that through being sinful he would crucify Christ. God did this, knowing in advance what would happen.

So we go now to the verse in Acts 2. I'll read from the KJV. Verses 22-23 say:

22 *"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know -*

23 *"Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;*

Now we note in verse 22 that Christ was delivered up on this day we call Good Friday by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God. The KJV word 'purpose' here is once again the word 'boulee', the word we looked at before as meaning *counsel*. The word 'determined' is *prohorizo*, or predestination. It was the 'predestining' counsel. We will look at predestination later. But here we find it was not only by the predestining counsel of God, but by His foreknowledge as well. When God took counsel He did it on the basis of knowing beforehand what would happen.

How could the disciples quote from a passage written a thousand years before they quoted it, and that had been foreknown at least 3,000 years before that? Because, God, knowing in advance what would happen prerecorded it. This is prophecy, one of the greatest proofs of God's existence and of the Word of God there is.

So to conclude on the involvement of God's counsel in the crucifixion of Christ, I believe the Triune God held a counsel before creating the universe and man. God saw what man would do, and in His righteousness it was agreed at this counsel that Christ would enter man's existence and die for man in order to redeem him. This death would be sufficient to save all of lost mankind. It was for the whole 'world'.

### III. GOD'S DETERMINATION

We come now to the third important word in our text. Our text says:

27 *"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*

28 *"to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.*

We have looked at God's hand in the matter of the crucifixion of Christ. What was His hand in the matter? It was creating mankind. What was his purpose, or better, His counsel? It was to make man knowing that man would sin, knowing that He would have to send His Son, and knowing that man would

kill the Christ. His counsel, we saw, is based on His will. His will is based on His character, and His character is 100% good. And so it is His will that all men should be saved, so He made provision for that. And that provision included allowing man to crucify His Son!

Now I think it is helpful to understand that there was a greater purpose than just man. I believe God made the universe and man in order to demonstrate to those angels that did not fall with Lucifer that their worship and glory of Him is not forced. It was of free will alone. If God had destroyed Satan as soon as he sinned, the rest of the angels could conclude that if they do not worship and glorify Him they immediately get cast into hell. Through making man a totally free moral agent who can be saved by grace through faith, God will fully settle that question in mankind for all, for all eternity.

And now we come to the word translated 'determined' in our text when it says man had gathered together against His holy Servant Jesus, and I quote:

28 *"to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.*

His hand and His purpose, or better His counsel, determined before that He would allow man to kill His Son. That happened on the day we commemorate today. Now here is the original word 'determined'. It is *prohorizo*. It comes from two words, *pro*, meaning before; and *horizo*, which means something like to mark out. For example, we get our word horizon from this word. The horizon is the marked out line between the heavens and the earth. So the verb, *horizo*, to predestine means to mark out, like an outline.

Let me explain the concept of this word. When I taught this in the course, "Man, Sin and Salvation" I gave these illustrations. For our ladies, let us say you have a piece of cloth material that you are going to make a dress out of. And you lay your pattern down on this cloth until you have made the best use of the cloth you could, and you have saved scraps as large as possible for other projects, and you pin them down on the cloth. This cloth is marked

out to become a dress. That is the word here translated 'determined', or I would say, 'marked out', or 'outlined'. For you men, you might have a piece of plywood and you have marked it out, that is predestined it, to become a dog house.

Albert Barnes says this on the word 'horizo' as used in Acts 2:22-23, "The word translated determinate... (horizo) means, properly, that which is defined, marked out, or bounded; as, to mark out or define the boundary of a field, etc.

Let me tell you a few things about man's predestination. It is never to hell or heaven. NEVER! Second, the predestination of man never guarantees arrival! Why? The fault lies not with God, but with man. What did God predestine man to according to what is given in Scripture? I can only give briefly what predestination is to. First, to be conformed to the image of Christ (Rom. 8:29). Second, to be adopted into the family of God (Eph. 1:5). This adoption, in my conclusions, is future (Rom. 8:23). And man is predestined to live to the praise and glory of God (Eph. 1:11-12).

But that man is predestined to these does not mean it will certainly happen. Why not? The fault never lies with God. It lies in the material He is working with. In man's predestination, the perfect tense is not used because it is uncertain if it will come to fruition because of man's free will. But Christ too was predestined. Listen to these passages:

Luke 22:22 *"And truly the Son of Man goes as it has been determined <predestined>, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!"* We could read, "The Son of man goes as the plan was marked out before hand that He should go."

Acts 2:23 *"Him, being delivered by the determined <predestinated> purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;* and we could read, "Him being delivered by the marked out plan in the counsel and foreknowledge of God..."

Romans 1:1-4:



- 1 Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle,  
separated to the gospel of God..
- 2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy  
Scriptures,
- 3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the  
seed of David according to the flesh,
- 4 and declared (predestined) to be the Son of God with power  
according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection  
from the dead. We could read, "... marked out to be the Son  
of God with power..."

So Christ was predestined to some things, but with Christ the arrival was certain. Why could predestination be certain with Christ and not with man? Because in Christ both God and the material He was working with were perfect! So consider Acts 2:23. It says:

23 *"Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God,*

When it says the 'determined' or 'predestined' purpose and foreknowledge of God it is a participle in the perfect tense. You see, when God and Jesus planned what Christ's part would be, it was sure that it would happen. Why? Because God had predetermined everything and there was no free choice? No! Man would without question be sinful. Christ would without question live right. And because of those things the result of His death was absolutely certain. And that Christ would go through with what which He had agreed to was certain as well.

So what does the word translated 'determined' in our text mean? It means 'to mark out beforehand'. It is the marked out plan before it is brought to fruition.

CONCL: So on this Good Friday we ask, was Christ crucified because that is what God predetermined would happen and He preprogrammed it all and thus it had to come to pass? Is that what it means when it says that man gathered against Christ on the day we commemorate as Good Friday, 'to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done'?

Well, I believe it means that when God created everything He had a hand in bringing about all that would take place. And when He took counsel, He realized that if the second Person of the Triune God agreed to become man, man, because of his sinfulness would kill Him. The second Person agreed to it in spite of that and in the plan of God He was slain before the foundation of the world.

On this day we commemorate as Good Friday, what God knew long in advance, took place and Christ died on the cross for sinful man. By creating man, God had a hand in this. By the counsel God held before creation, the Triune God agreed planned that Christ would die for mankind. God did not want anyone to be lost and provided Christ's blood as sufficient for all, but efficient only for those who repent and believe.