

# A.W. Pink: The Attributes of God. Chapter 2: The Decrees of God

Woodland Park Study Group (6/28/13)

Sing Psalm 148.

Read Ezra 6:1-12. “I Darius make a decree; let it be done with all diligence.”

What is a *decree*? How can we recognize a decree?

What can we say about the one who issues a decree?

What is the first decree in the Bible? “*Let there be.... And it was so.*”

Read WCF 3:1; WSC #7, 8; WLC #12, 13, 14; Dan 4:34-35; Ps 115:3.

Most of what God decrees is unknown until it comes to pass. Some of what God decrees is revealed ahead of time.

Nothing takes place outside of God’s *decretive* will. Much takes place outside of God’s *preceptive* will.

Read Jeremiah 11:9-17. “*I am bringing disaster upon them that they cannot escape.*”

Does God also decree evil and disaster? What does this tell us about the nature of evil? (See Gen 50:20)

Pink, p. 16 (modified): *The decrees of God relate to establish all future things without exception.*

Brian Leftow (Oxford professor of Christian Philosophy): “If God is timeless, then everything he does, he does, so to speak, all at once, in a single act.”

If God’s will is *singular*, it must be comprehensive. What mistake do we tend to make in the way we think about God’s will?

God’s decree is:

- eternal—outside of time, fixed, immutable
- wise—designed for a particular, good end result
- free—solitary, uninfluenced, uninformed, unbound
- absolute—unconditional upon human choices

Jonathan Edwards: To will that something should be is to decree it (implicitly).

Application:

Read Heidelberg #27, 28

- patient, thankful, confident
- “All creatures are so completely in his hand that without his will they can neither move nor be moved.”

Pink:

- What happens if we deny God’s decree?
- no peace, no comfort, no assurance, no refuge

Preparation for Prayer:

- Read Heidelberg #116, 117
- Read Psalm 148