

## GOD'S ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGNTY

THE PROUD heathen continue to rage in their hatred of the sovereign rule of the Christ of God (Psalm 2:1-3), but it is the religious world that leads in the mad revolt against the God of the Bible (Acts 4:23-28). They vainly imagine control of this world through their wicked devices (programs, powers, etc.). Men of all persuasions, sects and denominations work out a “god” who has either limited or no control at all and who is subject to the whims of men, thus *no god* at all. But the God of the Bible laughs (Psalm 2:4).

Depraved men will not have God’s KING to reign over them (Luke 19:14), but HE DOES REIGN as the MIGHTY CONQUEROR (Psalm 2:6-9). Whether in wrath or in mercy, OUR GOD REIGNS (Psalm 2:6; Isaiah 9:6-7). HE has decreed and He “performeth the counsel” (Isaiah 44:24-28).

It is not to the minds of blind men’s creeds and interpretations that we turn our attention on this subject, but we bow to a Holy God and His declaration in His Holy Word.

As there are slight distinct differences in the theology of terms such as Predestination, God’s Decrees, Foreordination and certainly Providence, they must be viewed as interwoven in the hands of Him Who not only planned everything in eternity but controls the absolute realization and carrying out of His plan in time. I have no desire to make a statement of theological exactness. Neither do we wish to make a man an offender for a word or term used. The Scriptures as God’s Word, which “cannot be broken” (John 10:35) by the schemes of men, make the following revelation:

“God’s decree is HIS eternal, sovereign, holy, just will and purpose concerning His eternal plan of any and all things and events, DETERMINING both the time and manner in which they will occur. Predestination is the eternal decree of GOD to create man, concluding man in the state of sin (Romans 11:32), and choosing and bringing some of them unto salvation in Christ, to the glory of His Sovereign Elective Grace. All others are rejected and damned, to the praise of His justice and this the Scriptures teach is Reprobation” (statement abridged from Puritan writings).

Notice:

Our Lord “before the world began” (2 Timothy 1:9):

- *Predestinated* – “Having predestinated us” — “Being predestinated according to the purpose of Him” (Ephesians 1:5, 11).
- *Decreed* – “Which have placed by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass” (Jeremiah 5:22) — “I will declare the decree” (Psalm 2:7).
- *Foreordained* – “Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world” (1 Peter 1:20).

- *Afore Prepared* – “Which He had afore prepared unto glory” (Romans 9:23)
- *Elected* – “For many be called, but few chosen” (Matthew 20:16) — “According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world” (Ephesians 1:4).
- *Reprobated* – “The vessels of wrath fitted to destruction” (Romans 9:22) — “Certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation” (Jude 4).
- *Ordained* – “And as many as were ordained to eternal life believed” (Acts 13:48).
- *Foreknew* – “For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate” (Romans 8:29) — “God hath not cast away His people which He foreknew” (Romans 11:2).
- *Willed* – “He hath done whatsoever He hath pleased” (Psalm 115:3) — “Whatsoever the Lord pleased, that did He” (Psalm 135:6).
- *Determined* – “The Son of Man goeth, as it was determined” (Luke 22:22) — “For to do whatsoever Thy hand and Thy counsel determined before to be done” (Acts 4:28).
- *Desired* – “But He is in one mind, and who can turn Him? And what His soul desireth, even that He doeth” (Job 23:13).
- *Appointed* – “There it will be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do” (Acts 22:10) — “For He performeth the thing that is appointed for me” (Job 23:14).
- *Purposed* – “Who are the called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28) — “According to His good pleasure which He hath purposed” (Ephesians 1:9).
- *Foresaw* – “And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify” (Galatians 3:8).

The Triune God was directed by none; took counsel with none (Isaiah 40:13-14). The will and actions of men could not sway the ETERNAL ONE. All was and is based on “the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God” (Acts 2:23). HE directs the affairs of men by “the immutability of His counsel” (Hebrews 6:17), His permanent and unchanging Word. Yes, “the counsel of the Lord standeth forever, the thoughts of His heart to all generations” (Psalm 33:11). It’s “according to the eternal purpose” of God (Ephesians 3:11), and without frustration or defeat by man as free-willers suggest—but at the “good pleasure” (Luke 12:32) of our Heavenly Father.

Our Lord is bringing His eternal plan to exact fulfillment by “His own will” (Ephesians 1:5, 7, 9). He controls all in ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGNTY (Read Isaiah 40:10-17; Romans 9:9-24).

The Living and Ruling Trinity, “in Whom we live, and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28), for Whom “are all things” (Romans 11:36), is even now in this corrupt, chaotic age “working all things after the counsel of His own will” (Ephesians 1:11) — and HIS COUNSEL SHALL STAND AND HE WILL DO ALL HIS PLEASURE (Isaiah 46:9-11). None or nothing can hinder the working out of all things in the “now working” Providence of Jehovah God (Proverbs 19:21; 21:1; 20:24; 16:1, 9; Job 9:12).

This is the God of the Bible who has given His eternally-begotten Son power over all flesh (John 17:2). The Lord Jesus Christ has “ALL POWER” (Matthew 28:18). He is now putting “down all rule and all authority and power” (1 Corinthians 15:24). HE “quickeneth whom He will” (John 5:21).

In sovereign mercy God reveals Himself in Christ in a powerful, saving way in the hearts of poor helpless elect sinners (Isaiah 53:1; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Galatians 1:15-16; Matthew 11:25-27). These who are favored by pure, free grace are brought by the Holy Spirit to bow to the will and ways of the Precious Redeemer (Acts 9:6). Religious professors, of whatever profession, cavil, rebel and rail against HIM WHO SAVES OR DAMNS AS HE WILLS—thus they carve out false concepts in their minds of a suitable “god” whose very being in their imaginations is unto their own eternal destruction (Isaiah 44:15, 20).

Oh, may we be broken by our Lord at His feet, crying for mercy. You have no right to question His sovereign dealings with the wicked and all things in HIS creation (Romans 9:20). “For He saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy” (Romans 9:15), and “Whom He will He hardeneth” (Romans 9:18). “Salvation is of the LORD” (Jonah 2:9). □

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