

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Study Pak 11

The Sovereign Decrees of God

1. Definitions: “The decree of God is His _____, _____, _____ and _____ purpose, comprehending at once all things that ever were or will be in their _____, _____, _____, and _____, and determining their certain _____. The several content of this one eternal purpose are, because of the limitation of our faculties, necessarily conceived of by us in partial aspects, and in logical relations, and are therefore styled Decrees”. (Hodge, A.A., p. 200, Outlines).
2. “By the decrees of God we mean that _____ by which God has rendered certain all _____ of the _____, _____, _____, _____.” (Strong, p. 171).

Nature of God’s Decrees

3. _____ - Ephesians 1:4; II Timothy 1:9; I Peter 1:20.
4. _____ - Romans 11:33.
5. _____ - Isaiah 40:13, 14.
6. _____ - Hebrews 13:8.
7. _____ - Isaiah 46:10; Ephesians 1:11.

Classification of God’s Decrees

8. All decrees are _____ in that they certainly determine all that ever _____, is, or ever _____. God’s _____ had nothing to do with His _____, _____ or His mode of _____ in three Persons. His decree must not be construed as a command to Himself to create, uphold and govern His universe. The decree of God relates to His acts _____ immanent and intrinsic but are outside His own Being. They are, however, to be contemplated as either _____, by which is meant that some are directly wrought of God, or they are to be contemplated as _____, by which is meant that some are of God, appointed to be wrought by secondary cause or the free actions of His creatures.
9. Likewise, a distinction must be recognized between a _____ to _____, and the _____ itself which is the execution of the decree. One logically follows the other, but the _____ is not the decree.

Relation of Decrees to Foreknowledge, Foreordination and Free Will.

10. God's decrees do not arise from His _____. The foreknowledge of God makes nothing _____. _____ refers to only those things which are within the plan He did adopt.

NOTE: Arminius claimed that foreknowledge extended to all events.

11. This system thus claims God foreknew what men would do and _____ formed a purpose concerning them. The result is - God is made subject to an unknown, ungoverned cause. He becomes submissive in the face of blind fate about which He _____
12. Foreordination alone established the certainty of things, nothing could be foreknown unless it was _____.

The Execution of the Decrees.

13. Creation

- A. Hebrew word "bara" or "baw-raw" means - "to make something out of _____". (Genesis 1:1, 21, 26, 27).
- B. Hebrew word "asah" or "aw-saw" means, "to make something out of materials already in _____". (Genesis 1:7, 16, 25, 26, 31).

14. Preservation

- A. Definition: Preservation is the continuous _____ of God by which He _____ the _____ of His _____.
- B. This doctrine contradicts the Deistic philosophy. God is not only transcendent, but He is immanent and shaping the destiny of men.
- C. Likewise the theory of continuous creation is opposed to Preservation. Having completed His work, God rested from _____, but He has continued and must continue His work of preservation (Hebrews 1:3; Job 7:20; Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 104:29, 30; Acts 17:28; Colossians. 1:17).

Providence

15. Definition: _____ by which He _____ all _____ of both the _____ and _____ spheres into the _____ of all His _____ purpose.
16. NOTE: Preservation continues the existence of things, but providence directs their progress. Providence extends to all of the works of God. It is generally classified as follows:
17. Preventative (Genesis 20:6; Psalm 19:13). It is a major aspect of divine care to _____ God _____ parents, governments, laws, customs, public opinion, sickness, accidents, His Word, His Spirit, and human conscience.

18. The _____, the _____, and Christ's intercession are effective for _____. The Spirit for this age (II Thessalonians 2:7; II Corinthians 12:4).
19. Permissive, or that which is negative, _____ restraint. In no sense is it indifference or indulgence (II Chronicles 32: 31; Deuteronomy 8:2; Psalm 81:12, 13).
20. Directive. Directing in _____. So, also, when evil is in the heart, God may _____ its _____. (Psalm 76:10; Isaiah 10:5; John 13:27; Acts 4:27, 28).
21. _____. Though the solution of all problems is nowhere revealed, it is true that the divine purpose is executed when man is, exercising his own will (Job 1:12; 2:6; Psalm 124:2; I Corinthians 10:13; II Thessalonians 2:7; Revelation 20:2, 3).
22. Certain attributes of God demand the exercise of His _____; His justice prompts Him to secure all moral good. His benevolence prompts Him to _____ for His own; His immutability insures that what He has _____ He will _____; and His power is sufficient to execute all His desire.
23. The providence of God so combines with human freedom that, though the ways of God are sure, it is in no sense fatalism. Likewise the providence of God is the opposite of "chancism". Nor is His providence dealing only with the greater aspects of life. His providence reaches to the least detail of life.

Doctrines.

24. Prayer:

Prayer is related to important doctrines and is God's purpose as is Christian Service, and life.

 - A. Prayer is in _____ with Divine decree, foreknowledge, and predestination.
 - B. Prayer is based on our _____ or _____ in Christ Jesus with all His perfection and praying in His Name.
 - C. But it becomes _____ upon our abiding in Christ, faith, and guidance of the Holy Spirit, the infallibility of the Word, etc.

Grace.

25. Grace, the unmerited favor of God, is seen in redemption with all that is past in the cross, present in experience, and future in anticipation.

Memorize the following verse:

26. Colossians 1:17

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Self Test 11

Answer the following:

1. Write out Strong's definition of the Decrees of God.

2. What are the 5 natures of God's decrees?
A. _____
B. _____
C. _____
D. _____
E. _____

3. To what is the theory of continuous creation opposed?

_____.

4. What is the continuous work of God whereby he molds all events?

_____.

5. What continues the existence of things?

_____.

Fill in the blanks using the letter matching the correct words from the list below:

A Preventative

D Prayer

B Determinative

E Directive

C Permissive

F Grace

6. _____ Unmerited favor.
7. _____ Is in harmony with divine decree, foreknowledge, and predestination.
8. _____ The withholding of restraint.
9. _____ Divine care to prevent sin.
10. _____ Divine purpose is executed when man is exercising his own will.

Write the following verse:

11. Colossians 1:17