

Dead Sea Scrolls

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Lecture Review Week 9

Divine determinism is a theological concept that asserts that God has preordained and foreknowledge of all events, including human actions and the ultimate fate of individuals. This concept is evident in both the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Pauline Epistles, albeit in different ways.

In the Dead Sea Scrolls, divine determinism is seen as a fundamental aspect of the community's understanding of God's sovereignty. The Qumran community believed that God had predetermined everything, from the beginning of time to the end of the world, including the destiny of each individual. They believed that God had already determined whether a person would be saved or damned, and that their destiny was set from birth. The scrolls emphasized the importance of following God's will and living a righteous life, but they also acknowledged the inevitability of divine judgment.

In the Pauline Epistles, divine determinism is expressed through the concept of predestination. Paul believed that God had predestined certain individuals to be saved, while others were not. He argued that God's grace and mercy were not earned by human works, but rather were freely given by God to those whom he had chosen. This concept of predestination is evident in Paul's letter to the Romans, where he writes that God "has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden" (Romans 9:18).

Both the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Pauline Epistles emphasize the importance of following God's will and living a righteous life. However, while the Qumran community believed that God had predetermined everything, including individual destiny, Paul's concept of predestination suggests that God had chosen some individuals for salvation and others for damnation. Regardless of these

differences, both groups emphasize the ultimate sovereignty of God in determining the fate of individuals and the world.