

## **2013 Basic Doctrines (03)** **(Divine Decrees, Intro.)**

**Divine Decrees** are the sum total of God's perfect plan designed in eternity past at the Eternal Life Conference (Eph.1:4-7).

**This lesson will introduce five basic principles of the theology of Divine Decrees.**

### **1. God didn't decree anything concerning His own existence.**

(Dut.29:29) "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of the law."

(Ex.3:13-14) "Then Moses said to God, 'Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name? What shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, '**I Am Who I Am**;' and He said, 'Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, **I Am** has sent me to you.'" [YHWH] (Yahweh / Lord) (John 8:24, 58; Ex.6:3)

(James 1:17) "Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the **Father of lights**, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow." (James 3:15; 1 John 1:5)

### **2. David introduced an important divine decree associated with messianic prophecy.**

(Ps.2:7) "I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to me, 'You are My Son.'"

The central decree in the plan of God is Jesus Christ (John 6:46, 62; 8:23, 58; 10:30).

(Ps.2:7) is quoted three times as fulfilled by Jesus Christ:

- **(Acts 13:33)** (Acts 13:16, 32-34)
  - Jesus Christ fulfilled the prophetic gospel
- **(Heb.1:5)** (Heb.1:1-5)
  - Jesus Christ fulfilled prophecy of last days
- **(Heb.5:5)** (Heb.5:1-6)
  - The Holy Priesthood of Jesus Christ is after the order of Melchizedek

### **3. Divine decrees declare important details of the will of God as it relates to the plan of God.**

- God's Directive Will to Jonah
  - **Go** to Nineveh and offer grace salvation (Jonah 1:1-2; 3:1-4; 4:9-11).
- God's Permissive Will
  - **No**, Jonah fled towards Tarnish (Jonah 1:3).
- God's Over-Ruling Will
  - **So**, Jonah received divine discipline (1 Jonah 4-2:10; Heb.12:5-11).

Two more examples are hair on head and sparrows (Matt.10:29-31).

Final example is Joseph and his brothers (Gen.45:7-8; 50:18-21; Rom.8:28).

### **4. God decreed human free will (volition) to act independently of God's Sovereign Will in the plan of God.**

The Sovereignty of God and the free will of man co-exist in the plan of God as a decree (Eph.1:11; James 1:18; 2 Cor.5:7).

Some things are decreed by God apart from free will, like creation (Gen.1). Other things are decreed by God and involve free will, like the law of Gen.2:17. But decrees of God cannot be understood apart from the Sovereign Will of God.

Adam and Eve lived in perfect environment without an old sin-nature and without personal sin until the Will of God came into conflict with the free will of man. (Gen.2:17) (John 7:17). When this occurs, man must surrender his free will to the Sovereign Will of God. (Matt.26:39; John 6:38-40; Col.4:12; Rom.12:2).

Adam and Eve acted against the revealed [Directive] Will of God regarding (Gen.2:17) (Gen.3:6; Rom.5:12). God did not coerce, prevent, condone nor sponsor the exercise of their free will.

God is glorified when free will exercises the Sovereign Will of God by faith (Rom.16:25-27; 1 Cor.10:31; John 17:22-24).

**5. God decreed to provide Grace Salvation to every member of the human race who would believe (free will) the gospel of Jesus Christ (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph2:8-9).**

(2 Pet.3:9) “The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, **not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.**”

(Heb.2:9) “But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, **because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.**” (Titus 2:11)

(John 3:16) “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever **believes** in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:36)

(Acts 16:31) “They said, ‘**Believe** in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.’”

**God decreed to save anyone who believes** that Jesus died for his sins according to the Scriptures, was buried and raised from the dead according to the Scriptures.

(1 Tim.1:15) “It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners**, among whom I am foremost of all.”