

# FOUNDATIONS

## LESSON 9: THE ETERNAL DECREES OF GOD

*... Declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose. (Isaiah 46:10)*

- Acts 2:22-23; Acts 4:27-28; Luke 22:22

**Main Idea:** All of the actions in creation, including the salvation of God's elect, have occurred and will occur because of God's eternal decrees.

### **I. God's Sovereignty, Omnipotence and Infinitude**

- A. God is sovereign over His creation. He has complete authority over all things.
- B. God is omnipotent over His creation. He has complete power over all that He has created.
- C. God is infinite. He is not bound by time nor is He bound by space.
- D. There is nothing beyond God's authority, power nor reach.

### **II. God's Eternal Decrees in Everything that Happens in Life**

- A. God uses human decisions to bring about His eternal decrees (Genesis 50:20; Genesis 45:8; Genesis 37:20-28; Exodus 4:21)
- B. God uses difficulties in life to bring about His eternal decrees (John 9:1-5; Jeremiah 27:5-7)
- C. Eternity past, God eternally decrees Christians to do good works (Ephesians 2:10)
- D. Through God's eternal decrees, God is in complete control of future things (Matthew 10:29-31, Proverbs 21:1)

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## III. God's Eternal Decrees in the Salvation of His People

A. God eternal decrees are active in His saving His people from the penalty for their sins (Genesis 12:1-3, Deuteronomy 7:7-8, John 6:44, Ephesians 1:4-6)

B. Here are some questions and answers regarding election and predestination

1. What about free will? (1 Corinthians 2:14, “the natural man does not accept the things of the spirit”)

a. Scripture teaches that God chooses His people

(John 3:7, John 1:13)

b. Scripture teaches that God gives us faith

(Ephesians 2:4-5, Ephesians 2:8-9, John 6:37)

c. When Scripture speaks of free will all of Scripture must be considered

(Romans 3:11-12)

2. What about pride? (Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 3:10-11)

3. What about moral effort? (Romans 6:1-2, Romans 8:6-8, James 2:18, Colossians 3:12)

4. What about evangelism? (Matthew 28:18-19, Romans 10:14-15)

## IV. The Comfort in Resting in God's Eternal Decrees