

The Plan of God

Theology I
Moody Evening School
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Definition

- The plan of God is sometimes referred to as the decrees or decree of God.
- It is actually one grand plan, but in our limited understanding we sometimes think of it as a group of related plans, or decrees.

The Nature of the Divine Plan

- It was conceived by God prior to the creation of the universe - Ephesians 1:4, 3:11; 2 Timothy 1:9
- It does not have any chronological sequence in its conception, only in its execution.
- It was a plan freely generated by God - no one advised Him on what He should do - Isaiah 40:13-14, Romans 11:34.

The Nature of the Divine Plan

- It is a plan consistent with God's nature, but not constrained by God's nature.
- It's end is the glory of God - Ephesians 1:5-6; Revelation 4:11; Isaiah 48:11
- It is all-inclusive - no area or being falls outside of God's plans and purposes.
- It is efficacious - it includes the redemption of mankind

The Nature of the Divine Plan

- God's plan relates to His decisions, not His nature.
- God's plan does not force men to act a certain way - rather it insures that the decisions of men, freely made by men, will conform to His predetermined plan.
- The plan of God - in relation to its specifics - is unchangeable.

The Nature of the Divine Plan

- God's plan is not deterministic - God did not ordain every event and every decision of man.
- God did not ordain evil and does not force evil men to do evil things - men are solely responsible for their own decisions.

The Will of God

- God's perfect or determined will
 - This WILL happen because God has ordained it
- God's permissive will
 - This happens because God ALLOWS it.
- God's desired will
 - This may or may not happen, but is what God DESIRES but does not ORDAIN.

The Great Paradox

- God's plan will succeed - nothing in the universe can alter His eternal purposes.
- Men, however, have freedom of choice in a limited manner - and this freedom of choice is not over-ruled by God.
- Neither of these statements can be reconciled in our minds - only in the Mind of God

Predestination and Election

- The Bible clearly teaches that God chose those whom He would save - 1 Peter 1:3-4, Ephesians 1, Romans 9, 2 Timothy 1:9
- The Bible also clearly teaches that men have a choice - and must choose salvation or suffer judgment - Matthew 23:37-38, Acts 17:30-31, 2 Corinthians 6:2

God's Side - Man's Side

- God's side - John 6:37-39
 - God gave the elect to Christ
 - Christ will resurrect the elect at the last day
 - All the elect, given to Christ, will be saved - none will be lost or turned away
- Man's side - John 6:40
 - Man has a responsibility to respond and believe
 - Those who believe will be resurrected at the last day.

God's Side - Man's Side

- The connection - John 6:44
 - God is the One who draws the elect to Christ
 - No one can believe unless God draws him
- Impossibilities
 - No one will truly desire to come to God and be turned away - that is - no one who is non-elect will truly want to be saved.
 - No one who does not want to be saved will be dragged into heaven

The Order of God's Decrees

- When discussing salvation - theologians have postulated three possible sequences in the formulation of God's decrees as they pertain to salvation.
- Of course, it a sense the discussions about these decrees are moot - since there is no sequence of events in eternity past.

Supralapsarianism

- The decree to save some and condemn others.
- The decree to create both the elect and reprobate.
- The decree to permit the fall of both.
- The decree to provide salvation only for the elect.

Infralapsarianism

- The decree to create human beings.
- The decree to permit the fall.
- The decree to save some and condemn others.
- The decree to provide salvation only for the elect.

Sublapsarianism

- The decree to create human beings.
- The decree to permit the fall.
- The decree to provide salvation sufficient for all.
- The decree to choose some to receive salvation.

The background is a solid blue color, split horizontally into two shades: a darker blue on top and a lighter blue on the bottom. On the left side, there is a vertical white line that intersects a horizontal white line. At the intersection point, there is a glowing blue sphere with a bright white center, creating a lens flare effect.

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