

The Scriptural authority for the doctrine of God's Eternal Decree:

It is essential in our study of God's eternal decree that we keep three things in mind. 1. God is Sovereign (LORD). 2. God is good. 3. It is a undeniable Biblical reality.

1. God's decrees are eternal.

Eph. 1:4-6; 3:11; 2 Tim. 1:9; 1 Cor. 2:7.

2. They are immutable.

Ps. 33:11; Isa. 46:9-10

3. They comprehend all events.

(A.) The Scriptures assert this of the whole system in general embraced in the divine decrees. Dan. 4:34, 35; Acts 17:26; Eph. 1:11.

(B.) They affirm the same of fortuitous events. Prov. 16:33; Matt. 10:29, 30.

(C.) Also of the free actions of men. Eph. 2:10; Phil. 2:13.

(D.) Even the wicked actions of men. Acts 2:23; 4:27, 28; 13:29; 1 Pet. 2:8; Jude 4; Rev. 17:17. As to the history of Joseph, compare Gen. 37:28, with Gen. 45:7, 8, and Gen. 50:20. Isa. 10:5, 15.

4. The decrees of God are not conditional.

Ps. 33:11; Prov. 19:21; Isa. 14:24, 27; 46:10; Rom. 9:11.

5. They are sovereign.

Isa. 40:13, 14; Dan. 4:35; Matt. 11:25, 26; Rom. 9:11, 15-18; Eph. 1:5-11.

6. They include the means.

Eph. 1:4; 2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:2.

7. They determine the free actions of men.

Acts 4:27, 28; Eph. 2:10.

8. God himself works in his people that faith and obedience which are called the conditions of salvation.

Eph. 2:8; Phil. 2:13; 2 Tim. 2:25.

9. The decree renders the event certain.

Matt. 16:21; Luke 18:31-33; 24:46; Acts 2:23; 13:29;

10. While God has decreed the free acts of men, the actors have been none the less responsible.

Gen. 50:20; Acts 2:23; 3:18; 4:27, 28.

~James P. Boyce- Abstract of Systematic Theology (pg. 123)