

“Salvation Before Creation”

Selected Scripture

What we believe about salvation must be consistent with who God is and what He has revealed about Himself in His Word.

In particular, God has revealed Himself as a Triune God (a Trinity) who is omniscient (all-knowing) and omnipotent (all-powerful).

We are going to be looking at salvation from a Trinitarian perspective over the next few weeks and see how the three persons of the Trinity counseled together and worked together in perfect harmony from eternity past to graciously save sinners who were spiritually dead.

We will be looking at the -tion words related to salvation: election, predestination, adoption, redemption, justification, propitiation, reconciliation, regeneration, etc.

The Eternal Decrees of God

Definition: What God decided, determined and ordained before He did anything. God has from eternity had an unchangeable plan with reference to all of His creation. His plan comprehends and determines all things and all events that come to pass.¹

Proverbs 16:33 The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.

Matthew 10:29-30 Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. **(30)** But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Philippians 2:13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Even the sinful actions of men are in the hands of God:

Acts 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

Acts 4:27-28 "For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together **(28)** to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.

Genesis 45:8 So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and Lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

¹ Taken from sermon by Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, “The Eternal Decrees of God”, www.mljtrust.org.

Genesis 50:20 But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive.

All the decrees of God are unconditional and are not based on His foreknowledge or anything outside of Himself, or anything outside of Himself.

His decrees will come to pass without exception.

Daniel 4:35 All the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And *among* the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"

Matthew 11:25-26 At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. (26) Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.

The Biblical teaching about The Eternal Decrees of God applies to salvation. Before He ever created the world, God determined who will be saved.

Acts 13:48 Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,

2 Timothy 1:8-9 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, (9) who has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

This doctrine:²

- is revealed in the Bible for us to know, study and believe
- reveals fresh aspects of the glory and grandeur of God
- will cause us to worship God in a deeper way
- will save us from many errors
- will give us great comfort and consolation in this life

² Taken from sermon by Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, "The Eternal Decrees of God", www.mljtrust.org.