

“DOES GOD SOVEREIGNLY RULE THROUGH A SINGLE DECREE?”

A. INTRODUCTION TO GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY & MAN'S RESPONSIBILITY

B. IS MANKIND TOTALLY DEPRAVED?

C. IS SAVING FAITH GOD'S GIFT TO THE ELECT?

D. WHAT DOES GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY MEAN?

1. The Calvinist Doctrine of the Divine Decree

a) Everything that comes to pass is the result of God's _____, _____, _____
_____ decree.

** What are the differences between the Calvinistic lapsarian views?*

- supralapsarian (Lat. “above the fall”)
- infralapsarian (Lat. “after the fall”)
- sublapsarian (Lat. “below the fall”)

b) As a result of the Divine Decree, God _____ everything that comes to pass.

** What major problem does this present for Calvinism?*

2. The Biblical Doctrine of God's Will and Decrees

a) Few things are said to be decreed by God in Scripture, including _____ (Job 28:26; 38:10; Ps. 148:6; Prov. 8:29; Jer. 5:22), the day of _____ (Ps. 2:7; Act 13:33), judgment in the _____ (Zeph. 2:2), and king _____ being judged with insanity (Dan. 4:24).

b) There are _____ references in Scripture to a single, universal, and eternal decree, including the passages normally appealed to by Calvinists. (Isa. 14:24, 27; 25:1; Lam. 2:17; Micah 7:20).

** But doesn't Ephesians 1:11 (cf. Phil. 2:12-13; Heb. 13:21) teach a universal divine decree?*

c) Biblically, God's will regarding salvation is not _____ and _____.
(John 3:16; 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9)

** How do Calvinists interpret these passages and what are they really saying?*

** How does Acts 27 illustrate the balance between God's sovereignty and man's responsibility?*