

Almost Everything You Need to Know

A Systematic Study of God

God's Decrees

The decrees of God are his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his own will, whereby for his own glory He hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.¹

...that eternal plan by which God has rendered certain all the events of the universe, past, present, and future.²

God's _____

God has one all-inclusive and comprehensive purpose, plan, and will.³

1. Over the _____
Your word, LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures. Your laws endure to this day, for all things serve you. (Psalm 119:89-91)
2. Over the _____
From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. (Acts 17:26)
3. Over the _____
Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. (Romans 13:1)
4. Over the _____ of our lives
A person's days are determined; you have decreed the number of his months and have set limits he cannot exceed. (Job 14:5)

¹ Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology*, 3 vols. (reprint of 1887 ed., London: James Clarke, 1960), 1:534.

² A.H. Strong, *Systematic Theology*, 3 vols. in 1 (Valley Forge, PA: Judson, 1907), p. 353.

³ Rolland McCune, *A Systematic Theology of Biblical Christianity: Prolegomena and the Doctrines of Scripture, God, and Angels*, vol. 1 (Allen Park, MI: Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, 2009), 310.

5. Over our _____ acts
For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)
6. Over our _____ acts
This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. (Acts 2:23)
7. Over our _____
He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. (Ephesians 1:5-6)
8. Over _____ little thing
The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD. (Proverbs 16:33)

Am I to _____ for anything?

One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who is able to resist his will?" (Romans 9:19)

Though it is true that God has the right to do anything consistent with His nature, it is equally true that He has chosen to exercise His rights by including the responsible and relatively free actions of people...I say relatively free simply because no one has absolute freedom, if for no other reason than the limitations of being fallen human creatures. He has made us responsible, and when we fail to act responsibly we are justly blamed.⁴

God's Sovereignty and the Power to Choose

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:11-14)

⁴ Charles Caldwell Ryrie, *Basic Theology: A Popular Systematic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1999), 364.