

God's Eternal Word / God's Eternal Plan

Selective Scriptures

I. God's Plan is Eternal:

- Psa 33:11, Psa 139:16, Isa 37:26, Isa 46:9-10, Jer 31:3, Matt 25:34, Eph 1:4, Eph 3:11, II Thes 2:13, II Tim 1:9, I Pet 1:20

II. God's Plan Includes Future Acts of Men:

- Dan 2:28a, Matt 20:18-19, John 6:64, Acts 2:23, Acts 4:27-28

III. God's Plan is Immutable:

- Num 23:19, Isa 14:24,27, Isa 46:9-11, Mal 3:6, Rom 11:29, Titus 1:2, Jam 1:17

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Introduction:

- “Unless I am convinced by Sacred Scripture or by evident reason, I will not recant. (Because) my conscience is held captive by the Word of God and to act against conscience is neither right nor safe.”
- those immortal words were uttered by Martin Luther at the Diet of Worms
- you see, Luther was on trial for his life before the authorities of both the church and the state, charged with serious heresy
- when commanded to recant his doctrine of justification by faith, he insisted that his doctrine was based on the Bible
- therefore, he could recant nothing, because “to act against conscience is neither right nor safe”
- the Protestant Reformation was the dispute over the doctrine of justification by faith alone in Christ alone
- in essence, a dispute over Biblical authority
- Sola Scriptura, Scripture Alone
- this term, declared the idea that only the Bible has the authority to bind the consciences of believers
- Protestants did recognize other forms of authority, such as church creeds and confessions
- but, they saw those authorities as being derived from and subordinate to the authority of God's Word, the Holy Scriptures
- thus, the Reformed quest for a systematic theology is an effort to define the system of doctrine clearly and concisely taught by the Scriptures themselves
- and taken from its most simplistic principle, Reformed Theology is first and foremost theocentric

- that is, it is God centered rather than man centered
- and that is the main difference between Calvinism and Arminianism
- now, I will return to this matter of the difference between Calvinism and Arminianism in a future lesson, but for now, let's take a look at **God's Eternal Plan**
- I want to begin by saying that its unthinkable that a God of infinite wisdom and power would create a world without a definite plan for that world
- and because God is infinite, His plan must extend to every detail of the world's existence
- therefore, if we could see the world in all its history, past, present, and future, we would see that it is following a predetermined course with exact precision
- loved ones, you cannot conceive of God bringing into existence a universe without a plan which would extend to all that would be done in that universe
- the Scriptures teach, that God's providential control extends to all events, even the most minute
- thereby, the Scriptures also teach that God's plan is equally comprehensive
- if God had not foreordained the course of events but waited to see how they would unfold, His decrees would be neither eternal nor immutable
- but, we know however that God is incapable of mistake and that He cannot be surprised by any unforeseen event
- thus, God's plan must therefore include every event in the entire sweep of history
- history, in all its details, even the most minute, is but the unfolding of the eternal purposes of God
- but please note, and I cannot stress this enough, God's decrees are not successively formed as an emergency arises
- but, are all part of one all-comprehensive plan
- friends, we should **never** think of God as suddenly implementing a plan or doing something as a reaction to something which snuck up on Him

- or of something not thought of before
- even the sinful acts of men are included in His plan
- they are foreordained, permitted, and have their exact place in His plan
- in other words, they are controlled and overruled by His divine design
- now, let's look at the Scriptural proof to support these truths

I. God's Plan is Eternal:

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II. God's Plan Includes Future Acts of Men:

- turn with me please to [Dan 2:28a](#), [Matt 20:18-19](#), [John 6:64](#), [Acts 2:23](#), [Acts 4:27-28](#)

III. God's Plan is Immutable:

- turn with me please to [Num 23:19](#), [Isa 14:24,27](#), [Isa 46:9-11](#), [Mal 3:6](#), [Rom 11:29](#), [Titus 1:2](#), [Jam 1:17](#)

In Closing:

- beloved, it has been recognized by Christians of all ages that God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe
- and that as the Creator and Ruler of the universe He is the ultimate source of all the power that is found in the creatures of His creation
- therefore, nothing can come to pass apart from God's sovereign will
- at the end of the Book of Job, Job declared; "I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You" Job 42:2
- Psa 115:3; "But our God is in heaven: (And) He does whatever He pleases"
- Psa 135:6; "Whatever the Lord pleases He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deep places"
- turn with me please to Jer 32:17, Dan 4:35, Matt 28:18, Rom 9:20-21, Eph 1:5, 9, 11, 19, 22
- beloved, everything is controlled and overruled by God's divine design and sovereign will
- shall we pray