

Omniscience and the Decree

OMNISCIENCE

ETERNAL KNOWLEDGE OF ALL POSSIBILITIES AND ACTUALITIES

1. Nothing prior to the decree has been determined, even though all is known (no fixity).
2. Therefore, nothing is yet foreknown.
3. No revelation of future events is yet possible.
4. God knows which plan He will determine, but at this stage that plan is still only potential. God is not, in any way, bound by the decree prior to the actual act of decreeing. To make God bound by His decree renders God's determinative will not sovereign.
5. If the plan (decree) were fixed in God's omniscience, the plan would be as eternal as God is, and therefore God would be required to decree in line with His omniscience. This would place limits on God, as He would not have the ability to act using His determinative will. The result of such a view is fatalism, the idea that no one, not even God, is in control of events.

DECREE

NON-ETERNAL COUNSEL WHICH RESULTS IN FOREKNOWLEDGE

1. When the plan (counsel, decree) is determined all potentialities other than the one which has been determined are eliminated. Only the Trinitarian Godhead knows which potentialities are determined and which are not determined. To this extent, God's plan is secret, except where He chooses to reveal elements (usually by prediction of specific events) of it in Scripture.
2. Based on His experience in the decree, God now has *prognosis*. He is now acquainted with all the facts in His plan in an experiential way because they are actually fixed by an act of determination in Trinitarian counsel which proceeds from the desirous will shared equally by all three Persons (Ephesians. 1:11).
3. Revelation of future events now becomes possible because the future is now fixed and will occur in the sequence which the Trinity has determined. This sequence is for man's benefit, and is necessary because of man's temporal nature.
4. God is not limited by the sequence which He has decreed, because he "inhabits eternity" and He "sees the end from the beginning."

PURPOSE

GOD WORKS ALL THINGS ACCORDING TO THE DETERMINATION OF HIS DESIRE EPHESIANS 1:11.

God works all things which He decreed because that which He determined became His purpose, and God WILL CARRY OUT HIS PURPOSES. See Isaiah 46:19-11.