

Of God's Decree – Isaiah 46:8-11

Baptist Confession of Faith (1689) Chapter 3, Paragraphs 1-7

The Doctrine

All things that come to pass, do so by the eternal decree of God.

(Paragraph 1)

- Whatever comes to pass, happens by the most holy, wise, eternal, unchangeable counsel of God (Eph. 1:11).
- God is neither the author of sin nor hath fellowship with any therein; nor is the will of man or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established (1 Jn. 1:5).
- God accomplishes His decree perfectly (Acts 4:27-28).

God's decree is not based on any condition He foresaw.

(Paragraph 2)

- God's decree is not based on any inherent merit or righteousness in an individual or circumstance.
- God's decree is on the basis of His Will (Rom. 9:11-13, 16-18).

The salvation of elect men and angels is predestined by God.

(Paragraphs 3, 4, 5)

- God's predestination of His elect is done in Love and for the praise of His glorious grace (Eph. 1:4-6).
- Those not elected for salvation are left to freely remain in their desires and sins (Rom. 9:22-23, Jude 4).
- The predestination of the elect is definite (Jn. 13:18).

- The mystery is not why God justly condemns the sinner to hell, but why God gracious elects any for salvation.

God has decreed and ordained the means by which His will comes to pass (Paragraph 6).

- All the elect are redeemed by Christ (1 Thes. 5:9-10).
- All the elect are effectually called, justified, adopted, sanctified, preserved, and glorified according to the will and grace of God (Jn. 10:15, 26; Rom. 8:30).

Application: *God's decree is a doctrine of grace, not boasting (Paragraph 7).*

- 1) Praise: How incredible and unfathomable the love of God!
- 2) Reverence: God is the one, true, holy, just God!
- 3) Humility: We have not been elected because of any goodness in us, but because of the sovereign grace and unconditional love of God. In fact, God chooses the foolish to shame the wise.
- 4) Diligent Obedience: God will persevere His Church in faith and righteousness.
- 5) Assurance: Our salvation is dependent on the perfect will of God the Father, accomplished work of Christ Jesus, and effectual application of the Holy Spirit.