James #70

The Father’s plan is seen in the Divine Decree.

Let us open back up in our anchor study of James chapter one. I hope you all had some down time and enjoyed the Labor Day weekend.

Jam 1:13 No one is to say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

[Jas 1:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/14/s_1147014) But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

[Jas 1:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/15/s_1147015) Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it has run its course, brings forth death.

Even a Believer walks into death in the temporal sense, when they sin. When they refuse to rebound and they keep walking in sin, that temporal death begins to decay their spiritual life.

They do not lose their salvation - they lose precious ground into maturity.

 At some point they bring forth darkness and hardening in the soul.

Then they begin to appear as an Unbeliever, which almost always brings forth discipline at some point.

[Jas 1:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/16/s_1147016) Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers *and sisters.*

[Jas 1:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/17/s_1147017) Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

Everything God does or creates is DIVINE good…it is divine work!

GOD is the father of pure light, pure righteousness and HIS gracious abundancy, is even seen in the very air we all breath, even Unbels reap benefits in time.

The perfect gift is only received in union with Christ; it is a pipeline of many perfect gifts in time and certainly into eternity.

That perfect gift begins at faith alone in Christ alone.

That pipeline of perfect gifts is then open for anyone who has believed upon the person and work of Jesus Christ.

/[Jas 1:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/18/s_1147018) **In the exercise of His will He gave us birth by the word of truth,** so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.\

We will look at the first half of this scripture over the next two messages.

[Jas 1:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/19/s_1147019) You know *this,* my beloved brothers *and sisters.* Now everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger;

[Jas 1:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/20/s_1147020) for a man’s anger does not bring about the righteousness of God.

The exercise of His will seen in verse 13 is one verb;

/Jam 1:13 *In the exercise of HIS will* (*boulomai*);

One Greek verb pointing to a strong intention and deliberate purpose, which speaks to the Divine Decree. ‘The 3 WILL’S of God’ (Perfect, Permissive, Overriding) are driving factors within the Divine Decree of eternity past. The Divine Decree is the sum total of God’s plan designed in eternity past. The plan has a foundation and core dependent completely upon the (humanity) person of Jesus Christ.\

BULL-OH-MY, is a Greek verb meaning a depth and solidity of a decision or determination already set in stone.

It is not a fleeting thought.

Jump over to Ephesians chapter one RF.

/The Divine Decree can be recognized as plural (decrees) because of its vast and infinite set of circumstances and moving parts. Yet God is so supreme, sovereign and omnipotent, that ONE thought, ONE word, brings forth millions or trillions of resolutions in a second of time as we know it! The Divine Decree is the end result of God’s grand design and plan for all of angelic and human history.\

This decree is the gold standard of the heavenly courtroom. It has aligned and processed all judicial decisions thorough the justice of GOD, while upholding pure righteousness as its very backbone to bring it into legal completion.

Because that righteousness is dependent upon TLJC.

It is a law that has been thoroughly vetted, purified and established in eternity past with absolute certainties that it will stand forever.

 REPEAT

/The Divine Decree was complete in eternity past so as to include all details, events, actions (positive/negative), related to their causes and conditions as a part of an indivisible system, woven into the integrity of the whole span of angelic and human history. It is God’s perfect plan from beginning to ending. Filtered through the justice system, comprehending at once all things that ever were or will be! Every decision, causes and effects, conditions, repercussions or relationships determining their certain future.\

Nothing was left out!

All of this had to pass through the justice system of God for the gold standard of becoming eternal law, that we now know as the Divine Decree.

Even though Ephesians is among Paul’s 4 prison epistles he did stay there twice.

The Apostle Paul had two recorded visits to Ephesus – first was a short visit in establishing a congregation during his 2nd missionary journey, where he stayed with Aquila and Priscilla.

On his 3rd missionary journey, he stayed at Ephesus for about 3 years.

Ephesus was a Greek stronghold at one time and it is located right off the Mediterranean coast of Turkey today.

Eph 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are at Ephesus and *are* faithful in Christ Jesus:

The original Greek letter did not have the name Ephesus, written in it.

It is believed to be a circular letter sent out by the Apostle Paul through Tychicus who was a faithful friend and a loyal assistant to Paul.

Interesting, because his very name means *“good fortune”,* or the ‘lucky one’ we would say today.

Its always good luck to have faithful friends and those who are willing to assist in the ministry.

[Eph 1:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/2/s_1098002) Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

/[Eph 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/3/s_1098003) Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,**

The true benefit of the Divine Decree is when we become in UNION with Christ, we are now actively woven inside the eternal plan of God the Father for all of eternity. Whereas the Unbel is seen as more of a collateral member of an eternal plan that has no benefit for them in the end. \

Never forget there is a barrier of enmity between the Unbeliever and the plan of God.

Even though Christ has reconciled all humanity on the cross, salvation was given to all mankind.

Within the legal stipulation of the Divine Decree, free will is accounted for.

God has done everything for all of us, out of HIS abundant grace, the question becomes will you turn to HIM and accept it? Because, GOD gives from HIS integrity and character - it is not based on any of us!

Everything is dependent upon one statement - EN CHRISTUS (in Christ). Positional truth!

/[Eph 1:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/4/s_1098004) just **as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

HE CHOSE – (*eklegomai*) the aorist tense tells us this is already done, it has been secured. Before the foundation of the world GOD established the Divine Decree.\

ECK-LEG-OH-MY, this means singled out or to set aside, to be chosen.

Now as I have taught many times there are certain denominations and theological stances, that teach predestination and election as a doctrine that means GOD chose some and neglect others, and it all points to LIMITED ATONEMNET.

I do not teach that - because I believe the Bible does not promote that doctrine.

I am certain of the doctrine of UNLIMITED ATONEMENT.

The Lord Jesus Christ died for the sins of the whole world, that WHO SO EVER believes upon HIM has eternal life.

 REPEAT

/God’s omniscient, omnipresence as well as omnipotence tells us HE has seen and known everything. Within the Divine Decree it was calculated and approved for all actions, details and decisions (negative or positive). Therefore, GOD knew exactly what decisions we all would make, certainly the day we accepted Christ as Lord and Savior.\

Either you understand that GOD has looked down the corridors of time and knows all things or you question HIS sovereignty. Just as you either understand the doctrine of free will or you do not.

All members of the human race are potentially elected to the plan of God, yet there, at the very center of the plan is the answer, TLJC – Christ is the only one truly elected.

 REPEAT

This is why Unlimited Atonement matters!

/[Eph 1:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/5/s_1098005) **He predestined us to adoption** as sons *and daughters* through JesusChrist to Himself, **according to the good pleasure of His will**,

Christ is the elected ONE; we share His election. Christ is the predestined One; we share His predestination.\

The Divine Decree took all of this perfect plan into account. The only answer, the only solution, for the precise judicial decree was one solution, one answer and that was the Doctrine of the Hypostatic Union – seen Jesus Christ.

/Christ was elected from eternity past–

Isa 42:1 “Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; **My chosen one** *in whom* My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations. (1Pet 2:4-6)\

In eternity past Jesus Christ was elected by God the Father because there was nothing and no one, who could satisfy the Justice of God. Therefore, the Divine Decree could not be declared without the doctrine of the Hypostatic Union!

/At the Cross of Christ, the perfect justice and the perfect plan from eternity past found its legal propitiation. The Doctrine of the Hypostatic Union was the exact and only answer to the plan of God. The plan was based on the principle of grace whereby the sovereignty of God and the free will of man meet at the cross — and they meet without any merit on man’s part. Faith is a non-meritorious system of perception. \

Faith is a simple positive thought in time directed at a target; it is not rationalism or empiricism.

There is truly no merit or human power in a moment of faith.

/[Eph 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/6/s_1098006) to the praise of the glory of **His grace, with which He favored us** in the Beloved.

The foreknowledge of God means a view into the future; it makes nothing certain. It means in eternity past the things that are certain would come to fruition. There is a difference between foreknowledge and foreordination.\

Foreordination speaks to GOD stepping upon free will and setting into motion events or decisions beyond our personal freedoms.

Free will is seen throughout the Bible!

/[Eph 1:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/7/s_1098007) **In Him we have redemption** through His blood, **the forgiveness of our wrongdoings**, according to the riches of His grace

IN HIM we keep having (present tense) forgiveness of sins.\

The center of the very universe and of all creation – is The Lord Jesus Christ.

Divine grace does not keep a count… it is limitless.

Grace is not dependent upon human power and human merits.

[Eph 1:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/8/s_1098008) which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight

The perfect gift (Christ) that opens up that pipeline of so many perfect gifts, such as wisdom and insight.

That perfect gift was designed in eternity past with a legal stipulation of faith for it to become open.

/[Eph 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/9/s_1098009) **He made known to us the mystery of His will**, according to His good pleasure which **He set forth in Him**,

The 3 will’s of GOD, were in the core design of God’s divine decrees, they were known in eternity past but not revealed until the Church Age. The mystery (doctrine) of the whole plan of GOD became clarified by the apostles.\

The mystery doctrine opened at the Cross of Christ. Then at the completed canon of scripture, it became apparent as part of the woven fabric of the Bible from Genesis into Revelation.

 REPEAT

/[Eph 1:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/10/s_1098010) **regarding *His* plan**(*oikonomia*) **of the fullness of the times** (*kairos*), to bring all things together **in Christ**, things in the heavens and things on the earth.

*With a view to the administration (dispensation) of the fullness of the TIMES (plural)*- knowing the CA is not the fullness of all times (Millennium), it is a fullness for the Gentiles.\

OH-COIN-NAH-ME-AH, is a designated office or management of an estate, the manager over a property.

KIA-ROS, speaks to changing season, measures in time or seasonable shifts.

God’s perfect plan has a set of boundaries, seasons and time periods with specific guidelines and categories.

Dispensations are God’s interpretation of human history as well as the divine plan for man related to history. The Believer’s orientation to time and history is imperative as to understanding God’s plan.

Therefore, understanding God’s plan the Christian can then fully understand God’s purpose for their life as well.

[Eph 1:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/11/s_1098011) In Him we also have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things in accordance with the plan of His will,

[Eph 1:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/12/s_1098012) to the end that we who were the first to hope in the Christ would be to the praise of His glory.