

## Doctrine of Providence- Part 6

Written by Calvin Fox

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**Secondary Causes** [almost everything God does, He does through means. Occasionally, but rarely, He works miracles, i.e.- acts directly apart from secondary causes]

Isaiah 10:6 I will send him (the rod of my anger, the club of my fury-v.5) against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets. 7 Howbeit he meaneth not so, neither doth his heart think so; but it is in his heart to destroy and cut off nations not a few. [et al]

### Free will choices

[Most all these stories used here seem to be of people exercising free choice; but often the Spirit of God or the Spirit of Evil is at work on another level- "concurrence"]

### Predestination

Psalm 135:6 Whatsoever the Lord pleased, that did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places. [this does not mean He was or is pleased to do everything] ----text is not really about predestination

Isaiah 55:11 my word shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please,

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and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. –not about predestination of all things

Eph 1:11 we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.

Literally all things or all things He actually does?

Acts 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.

Acts 4:27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, 28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

Does this refer to their actions or to the crucifixion? The latter was what was determined. Where the actions of the killers also?

Yes, because how can the ends be predestined, unless the means are also?

If God determines the former (the ends), must He not also have to determine the latter (the means)?

1Peter 2:7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

Romans 8:28 we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

A better translation says God works all things, after the fact, to the good in the end.

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Psalm 33:10 The Lord bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect. 11 The counsel of the Lord standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart.

Nations and Peoples, not individuals- a general principle

2Kings 19:28 Because thy rage against me and thy tumult is come up into mine ears, therefore I will put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest.

The following are additional texts I have added to the above (using the NRSV)

1Corinthians 15:27 <sup>27</sup> "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." i.e.- all His enemies, such as Death (not all things literally) And we do not see this subjection in this world cf Heb 2:8f

Psalm 103:19 The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

Same as above also cf 1 Chronicles 29:12

Jeremiah 10:23 I know, O Lord, that the way of human beings is not in their control, that mortals as they walk cannot direct their steps. –not predestination

Proverbs 20:24 All our steps are ordered by the Lord; how then can we understand our own ways?

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It is not wise for a man to direct his own steps cf ESV a man should let God do that

Proverbs 16:9 The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps cf vv 1-3 and see 19:21, 21:30f The proverb means ultimately, God will prevail

Psalm 75:6-7 it is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another. See Lk 1:51f This is not predestination of all things, just a fact