

The Attributes of God

Chapter Two: The Decrees of God

As you study Chapter Two, be sure to pray and ask for the Lord's blessing, and that the eyes of your understanding would be opened. You are encouraged to make note of any other Scriptures that come to your mind as you contemplate these questions.

1. What is the basic definition of a decree? How would you explain the decree of God?

2. The Hebrew word for decree is *choq* (pronounced "khole") and means: appointed, bound, commandment, an enactment, something prescribed or owed. Scripture uses various words when speaking of God's decree. Write the different ways God's decree is mentioned in the following verses.

Psalm 2:7:

Eph. 3:11:

Acts 2:23:

Eph. 1:9:

Rom. 8:29:

3. In approaching the subject of God's full authority in His decree, is your heart more inclined towards fear, or comfort, and why?

4. Psalm 89:14 tells us that righteousness is the foundation of God's throne, and Psalm 145:17 tells us that God is righteous in all His ways. How does Acts 2:22-24 help us accept the fact that even evil things that take place in the world are included in God's decree?

5. If man issues a decree, what are the potential weaknesses? In what ways is God's decree superior to man's? (See Romans 9:19, Matthew 7:27, Matthew 28:18, Proverbs 21:1, and Romans 11:33)

6. Read Ephesians 1:11. Explain why God's decree is also called His counsel or His will.

7. A.W. Pink lists four properties of God's decree. His decree is: eternal, wise, free and absolute. Why are each of these qualities of God's decree so important?

8. Scripture is clear that through God's decree, God rules over all, and yet man is still held responsible for his actions. What do the following Scriptures teach us about man's responsibility?

2 Corinthians 5:10

Galatians 6:7

James 4:17

Luke 12:48

Romans 14:12

9. It is difficult for us to reconcile God's decree (which concerns all things) with the idea that God still holds man to be responsible for his sin. What are some other accepted truths listed by Pink near the end of Chapter Two, that are also held in tension? How do these other truths help you accept the fact that man is held responsible for sin?

10. A.W. Pink quotes Jonathon Edwards to help explain that if one objects to God's decree, one must also object to God's foreknowledge. How would you explain the quote by Jonathon Edwards (near the end of Chapter Two) in your own words?

11. Try to imagine a universe without being under God's decree. What would it be like? Why can we be thankful for God's decree?

12. What Scripture made the greatest impression on you as you studied this chapter? What impact does understanding God's decree have on your own circumstances and life?