

THE WILL OF GOD

- I. The Determinative Will of God
 - a. *Boule* and *Boulomai*
 - i. Definition
 - 1. *Boule* (noun)
 - a. “from a root meaning ‘a will,’ hence ‘a counsel, a piece of advice,’ is to be distinguished from *gnome*; *boule* is the result of determination, *gnome* is the result of knowledge” -Vine’s
 - b. “properly, a resolved plan, used particularly of the immutable aspect of God’s plan – purposefully arranging all physical circumstances, which guarantees every scene of life works to His eternal purpose..is more than God’s immutable plan of physical circumstances. It always also includes the Lord’s purpose in them – and hence arranging all physical scenes of history before creation” – HELPS Word Studies
 - 2. *Boulomai* (verb)
 - a. “(‘resolutely plan’) is a strong term that underlies the predetermined (and determined) intention driving the planning (wishing, resolving). In contrast (*thelo*) focuses on the desire (‘wishfulness’) behind making an offer.
 - 3. Example – *The Final Countdown*
 - ii. Man can determine
 - 1. Mk. 15:15 – to appease the Jews
 - 2. 1 Tim. 6:9 – to be rich in this world
 - 3. Jam. 4:4 – to be a friend of the world system
 - 4. 1 Pt. 5:5-6 - man’s determinations often do not come to pass
 - iii. God will accomplish what He has determined
 - 1. Isa. 14: 24, 26; 46:9-11 – what God has determined shall come to pass
 - 2. Isa. 40:13, 14 – God does not need anyone’s assistance
 - 3. Acts 4:27-28 – God uses man to accomplish what He has determined
 - b. What has God determined?
 - i. Man’s Days
 - 1. Job 14:5 – man’s days are numbered
 - 2. Psa. 139:16 – God knows man’s days
 - 3. He. 9:7 – man has reservation with death
 - ii. God’s Plans for the Nations

1. Acts 17:26 – God established boundaries and times of every nation
 2. Job 12:23 – God makes nations great and brings them down to ruin
 3. Isa. 45:1-4 - Cyrus – Nations rise and fall dependent upon God’s agenda for Israel
 4. Ro. 13:1-4, 6 – God has established governmental authority and those that rule
 5. Dan. 4:17 – God makes use of even the “basest of men” according to His divine purposes
- iii. God’s Plans for Israel
1. Dt. 4:37; Ps. 33:12 – God chose the nation of Israel
 2. Gen. 15:13-14 – God determined to free the Hebrews and judge Egypt
 3. 1 Sam. 16:1-2 – David chosen as King of Israel by God
 4. Dan. 9:24-27 – God’s timetable for Israel
- iv. Christ’s Sacrificial Death
1. 1 Cor. 2:6-8 – the wisdom of God was ordained before the age
 2. 1 Pt. 1:18-20; Acts 4:23-28 – Christ was determined to be the sacrificial lamb before the foundation of the world
 3. Gal. 4:4 – Christ came at the exact right time
- v. Christ’s Future
1. Acts 10:42-43; 17:31 – Christ to judge the lost
 2. Ps. 2:7 – Christ to rule the world during the Millennial Kingdom
- vi. Conformity to the Image of Christ
1. 2 Ti. 1:9 – God’s purpose for those in Christ was determined before the age began
 2. Rom. 8:29 – God determined in advance that all believers would be conformed into the image of Christ
 3. Eph. 1:5 – God determined that all believers would be made mature sons of God
 4. Eph. 1:11 – Believers have been saved to be to the “praise of his glory”
- c. What God has not determined?
- i. Eternal punishment in Advance
 1. 2 Pt. 3:9 – God has not determined in advance that certain ones should experience eternal damnation