

Slide 1

Prophecy and Divine Transcendence

aseity (Psa 94:8-11; Isa 40:18; Dan 4:34-35; Acts 17:25; Rom 11:33-34; Rev 4:11)

eternality (Psa 90:2; 102:12; Eph 3:21)

immensity (1 Kings 8:27; Isa 66:1; Acts 7:48-49)

immutability (Psa 102:26-28; Isa 41:4; 48:12; Mal 3:6; Rom 1:23; Heb 1:11, 12; James 1:17)

Slide 2

God, from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will freely, and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass: (WCF 3:1)

Slide 3

God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind (*yitnecham* < נִחַם). Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it? (Num 23:19; cf. 1 Sam 15:29; Psa 110:4)

Slide 4

Prophecy and Divine Immanence

God is involved, vocal, present, and responsive.

Although, in relation to the foreknowledge and decree of God, the first cause, all things come to pass immutably, and infallibly; yet, by the same providence, He ordereth them to fall out according to the nature of second causes, either necessarily, freely, or contingently. God, in His ordinary providence, maketh use of means, yet is free to work without, above, and against them, at His pleasure. (WCF 5:2-3)

Secondary Causes: God speaks (Gen 1:29), questions (Gen 3:9), hears prayers (Exod 3:7), intervenes in history (Exod 3:8), and brings blessings and curses.

Slide 5

True prophecy fulfillment can be contingent on human response

- a) react one way – contingent fulfillment
- b) react another way – contingent fulfillment
- c) etc.

Slide 6

Types of contingent fulfillment

- a) Postponement (1 Kings 21:29; 2 Kings 20:1-11; 2 Kings 22:15-20)
- b) mollification (2 Chron 12:1-12; 1 Kings 15:4-5; Ezek 20:4-29)
- c) annulment (Amos 7:1-6 [*nicham* v.3]; Jon 3:4-10)
- d) reversal (Ezek 33:13-16; Joel 2:1-18ff)

Slide 7

Proper concerns of audience in light of God's hidden counsel (Isa 55:8-9; Deut 29:29)

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isa 55:8-9)

- a) prophecies of blessing: thanksgiving, praise, and caution
- b) prophecies of judgment: conviction and repentance
 - “Who knows . . .” (2Sa 12:21-22; cf. Joel 2:14; Jon 3:9)
- c) not complacency, fatalism, or passive anticipation