

THE STUDY OF GOD #4

Up to this point we studied the two types of revelations regarding God – General Revelation (Natural Theology) and Special Revelation (Revealed Theology). General Revelation contains 6 arguments for the existence of God – Cosmological, Teleological, Ontological, Anthropological, Ethnological and Congruity. We have also seen the 2 aspects of God’s Nature – His essence (who God is) and His attributes (what God does). Under God’s attributes we saw His moral and non-moral attributes. Within God’s non-moral attributes are the 3 O’s – Omnipotent, Omniscience and Omnipresence. Today we will look at the Trinity and what are known as the “Decrees of God”. We begin with:

1. **The Trinity.** The Trinity attests that as three persons, all three are co-equal in every attribute – yet they are not three separate “gods” but one God in three persons. The unity of God teaches that there is but one God and that God is undivided and un-divisible – **Deut. 4:35, Mark 12:29-32, John 17:3**. From the very beginning God’s Hebrew name was used – “Elohim”. This name is a uni-plural noun that expresses oneness with plurality – **Gen. 1:26** – “Let “us” make man in “our” image”.
 - a. **There is only one God – Deut. 6:4 -.**
 - b. **There are three who are God.** Both the OT and NT indicate that God exists as a Trinity. The Trinity is not a truth of Natural Theology but of Special Revelation in the Word of God.
 - c. **The Three Persons are referred to together – Matt. 28:19, 3:16-17, 2 Cor. 13:14.** The Trinity is seen in plural pronouns, nouns and verbs used of God – **Gen. 1:26, Isaiah 6:8**.
 - d. **Each Person in the Trinity is fully God. The Son – Is. 7:14 and Matt. 1:23, Ps. 2:7 and John 1:1, 14, 20:28, 1 John 5:20. The Holy Spirit – Acts 5:3-4, 1 Cor.3:16.**
2. **The Decrees of God.** His purposes. The decrees of God are His eternal purposes based on His wise and holy counsel, where God has freely and unchangeably for His own glory, ordained all that comes to pass. There are two kinds of decrees – **Directive decrees** – the decrees that have been purposed or directed to come about and **Permissive decrees** – some things that have been determined to be permitted.
 - a. **The proof of the decrees.** The proof of the decrees is evidenced in that the events in the universe are neither a surprise nor a disappointment to God, as the universe was purposed in the plan of God – **Is. 14:24, 26-27, Eph. 1:9, 11**. God’s purposes are always seen as eternal – **Eph. 3:11, 1 Peter 1:20, Rev. 13:8**.
 - b. **The basis of the decrees.** The decrees of God did not originate out of necessity. God did not have to decree anything; nor was He limited by anything outside of Himself to influence Him in making His decrees. Sometimes we do not understand what is happening, but God always knows and one day we too will understand.
 - c. **The end (result) of the decrees.** That all things bring glory to God – **Ps. 19:1, Is. 48:11**.