



**TO GLORIFY AND ENJOY GOD
WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM
STUDY 3**



∞ WHAT GOD HAS DONE ∞

1. *Review:*

- a. What have you learned about God's *nature*?
- b. What have you learned about God's *attributes*?

Questions 7 & 8:

What are the decrees of God? *A. The decrees of God are, his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for his own glory, he hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.*⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ Eph. 1:4,11; Rom. 9:22,23

How doth God execute his decrees? *A. God executeth his decrees in the works of creation and providence.*

1. *"The decrees of God are His eternal purpose, according to the counsel of His own will"*

- a. What is a "decree"?
- b. Read Ps.33:11. What do the words "*eternal purpose*" tell us about God's decrees?
- c. Read Eph.1:11 and Rom.11:33-36. What do you understand by "*the counsel of His will*"?

2. *"For His own glory, He hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass".*

- a. What is God's *motivation* for His decrees, and how does this shed light on *Catechism Q.1*?
- b. Read Is.46:9-10 and Acts 2:23. What help do these verses give us in explaining the relationship between the absolute freedom of God in His sovereign decrees and the freedom of the human will?

"God, from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely, and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass: yet so, as thereby neither is God the author of sin, nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures; nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established." (Westminster Confession of Faith, III.1)

3. *"God executeth His decrees in the works of Creation and Providence"*

- a. How does the *execution* of the decrees and the *making* of the decrees differ?

Questions 9 & 10

What is the work of creation? *A. The work of creation is, God's making all things of nothing, by the word of his power, in the space of six days, and all very good.* ⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ Gen. 1:1-31

How did God create man? *A. God created man male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.* ⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ Gen. 1:26,27,28; Col. 3:10; Eph. 4:24

1. “*Making all things of nothing ... In the space of six days and all very good*”
 - a. How does this statement challenge current scientific assumptions about origins?
2. “*God created man – male and female*”
 - a. Why do you think man was created last in the Creation Week?
3. “*After His own Image, in knowledge, righteousness and holiness with dominion over the creatures*”
 - a. What does it mean to be made in the image of God?

Questions 11 & 12

What are the works of providence? *A. God's works of providence are his most holy,⁽¹⁾ wise,⁽²⁾ and powerful preserving⁽³⁾ and governing all his creatures, and all their actions.⁽⁴⁾* ^{(1) Ps. 145:17 (2) Ps. 104:24; Isa. 28:29 (3) Heb. 1:3 (4) Ps. 103:19; Matt. 10:29,30,31}

What special act of providence did God exercise toward man in the estate wherein he was created? *A. When God had created man, he entered into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of perfect obedience; forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon the pain of death.⁽¹⁾* ^{(1) Gal. 3:12; Gen. 2:17}

1. “*Most holy, wise and powerful preserving and governing all His creatures and all their actions*”
 - a. Read Matt.6:26 and Prov.16:9. In your own words, how would you sum up God’s providence?
 - b. God’s provision for His Creation would seem to be a welcome doctrine. Why do you think so many react against it?
 - c. How is the Biblical Doctrine of Providence opposed to *Deism*?
2. “*He entered into a Covenant of Life with him*”.
 - a. We will return to this “Covenant of Life” (better known as the “Covenant of Works”) in a future study. But for now, what is a “*covenant*”?
 - b. What does God’s entering into a covenant tell you about His *attitude* to what He has made (Creation) and how He sustains it (Providence)?

“God the great Creator of all things doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest even to the least, by his most wise and holy providence, according to his infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of his own will, to the praise of the glory of his wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy.”
(Westminster Confession of Faith, V,1)