

Westminster Confession on the Election and Reprobation of Angels

Chapter 3 - Of God's Eternal Decree

Section 3. By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory, some men and angels¹ are predestinated unto everlasting life, and others foreordained to everlasting death.²

Section 4. These angels and men, thus predestinated and foreordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed; and their number is so certain and definite, that it cannot be either increased or diminished.³

¹ I Tim. 5:21: I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality. Matt. 25:41: Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.

² Rom. 9:22-23: What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory. Eph. 1:5-6: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. Prov. 16:4: The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.

³ II Tim. 2:19: Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. John 13:18: I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.

Westminster Larger Catechism on Angels

God's Election and Reprobation of Angels

Q. 12. What are the decrees of God?

A. God's decrees are the wise, free, and holy acts of the counsel of his will,¹ whereby, from all eternity, he hath, for his own glory, unchangeably foreordained whatsoever comes to pass in time,² especially concerning angels and men.

1. Eph. 1:4, 11; Rom. 11:33; Rom. 9:14-15, 18.

2. Acts 4:27-28; Rom. 9:22-23; Ps. 33:11.

Q. 13. What hath God especially decreed concerning angels and men?

A. God, by an eternal and immutable decree, out of his mere love, for the praise of his glorious grace, to be manifested in due time, hath elected some angels to glory;¹ and in Christ hath chosen some men to eternal life, and the means thereof;² and also, according to his sovereign power, and the unsearchable counsel of his own will (whereby he extendeth or withholdeth favour as he pleaseth), hath passed by and foreordained the rest to dishonour and wrath, to be for their sin inflicted, to the praise of the glory of his justice.³

1. I Tim. 5:21.

2. Eph. 1:4-6; II Thess. 2:13-14; I Peter 1:2.

3. Rom. 9:17-18, 21-22; Matt. 11:25-26; II Tim. 2:20; Jude 4; I Peter 2:8.

God's Creation of Angels

Q. 16. How did God create angels?

A. God created all the angels¹ spirits,² immortal,³ holy,⁴ excelling in knowledge,⁵ mighty in power,⁶ to execute his commandments, and to praise his name,⁷ yet subject to change.⁸

1. Col. 1:16.

2. Ps. 104:4; Col. 1:16.

3. Matt. 22:30; Luke 20:36.

4. Gen. 1:31; Matt. 25:31.

5. II Sam. 14:17; Matt. 24:36.

6. II Thess. 1:7.

7. Ps. 103:20-21.

8. II Peter 2:4.

God's Providence Towards Angels

Q. 19. What is God's providence towards the angels?

A. God by his providence permitted some of the angels, wilfully and irrecoverably, to fall into sin and damnation,¹ limiting and ordering that, and all their sins, to his own glory;² and established the rest in holiness and happiness,³ employing them all,⁴ at his pleasure, in the administrations of his power, mercy, and justice.⁵

1. Jude 6; II Peter 2:4; Heb. 2:16; John 8:44.

2. Job 1:12; Matt. 8:31; Luke 10:17.

3. I Tim. 5:21; Mark 8:38; Heb. 12:22.

4. Ps. 104:4.

5. II Kings 19:35; Heb. 1:14.