

THE WESTMINSTER STANDARDS

Shorter
CATECHISM

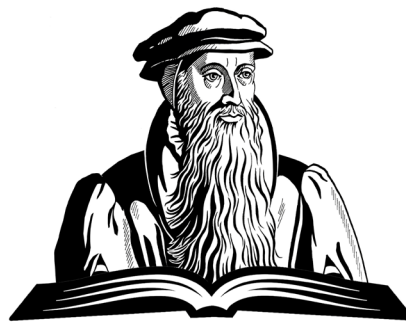
VIDEO LECTURE SERIES

by Rev. Jonathan Mattull

Adult Study Guide

for Lecture #5

The Decrees of God
Catechism Questions 7 and 8



The John Knox Institute
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Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

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The Shorter CATECHISM

VIDEO LECTURE SERIES

by Rev. Jonathan Mattull

1. The Chief End of Man—*Question 1*
2. God's Word and Its Teaching—*Questions 2 & 3*
3. What God Is—*Question 4*
4. One Triune God—*Questions 5 & 6*
5. The Decrees of God—*Questions 7 & 8*
6. God's Work of Creation—*Question 9*
7. God's Creation of Man—*Question 10*
8. God's Works of Providence—*Question 11*
9. God's Special Providence Towards Man—*Question 12*
10. The Fall of Man—*Questions 13 & 15*
11. What Sin Is—*Question 14*
12. The Fall's Effect on All Mankind—*Questions 16 & 17*
13. The Sinfulness & Misery of Man's Fallen State—*Questions 18 & 19*
14. The Covenant of Grace—*Question 20*
15. Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of God's Elect—*Question 21*
16. The Incarnation—*Question 22*
17. Christ's Office of Prophet—*Questions 23 & 24*
18. Christ's Office of Priest—*Question 25*
19. Christ's Office of King—*Question 26*
20. The Humiliation of Christ—*Question 27*

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21. Christ's Exaltation—*Question 28*
22. Redemption Applied—*Questions 29 & 30*
23. Effectual Calling—*Questions 31 & 32*
24. Justification—*Question 33*
25. Adoption—*Question 34*
26. Sanctification—*Question 35*
27. Blessings of Salvation in this Life—*Question 36*
28. Blessings of Salvation at Death—*Question 37*
29. Blessings of Salvation at the Resurrection—*Question 38*
30. The Duty Required of Man—*Questions 39 through 42*
31. The Ten Commandments: A Preface of Grace—*Questions 43 & 44*
32. The Ten Commandments: Love for God—*Questions 45–8*
33. The Ten Commandments: Love for God's Worship—*Question 49–52*
34. The Ten Commandments: Love for God's Name—*Questions 53–56*
35. The Ten Commandments: A Day for Holy Love—*Questions 57–59*
36. The Ten Commandments: Love for God's Day—*Questions 60–62*
37. The Ten Commandments: Love within Our Relationships—*Questions 63–66*
38. The Ten Commandments: Love for Life—*Questions 67–69*
39. The Ten Commandments: Love for Purity—*Questions 70–72*
40. The Ten Commandments: Love for the Lord's Allotment—*Questions 73–75*

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41. The Ten Commandments - Love for the Truth—*Questions 76 thru 78*
42. The Ten Commandments - Love from Within—*Questions 79 thru 81*
43. Understanding Our Sin—*Questions 82 thru 84*
44. Escaping God's Wrath and Curse: Saving Faith—*Questions 85 and 86*
45. Escaping God's Wrath and Curse: Repentance unto Life—*Question 87*
46. Escaping God's Wrath and Curse: Means of Grace—*Question 88*
47. Means of Grace: The Word of God—*Questions 89 and 90*
48. Means of Grace: The Sacraments—*Questions 91 thru 93*
49. Means of Grace: Christian Baptism—*Questions 94 and 95*
50. Means of Grace: The Lord's Supper—*Question 96*
51. Means of Grace: Receiving the Lord's Supper—*Question 97*
52. Means of Grace: Prayer—*Questions 98 and 99*
53. The Lord's Prayer: The Preface—*Question 100*
54. The Lord's Prayer: The First Petition—*Question 101*
55. The Lord's Prayer: The Second Petition—*Question 102*
56. The Lord's Prayer: The Third Petition—*Question 103*
57. The Lord's Prayer: The Fourth Petition—*Question 104*
58. The Lord's Prayer: The Fifth Petition—*Question 105*
59. The Lord's Prayer: The Sixth Petition—*Question 106*
60. The Lord's Prayer: The Conclusion—*Question 107*

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ADULT STUDY GUIDE

for Lecture #5

The Decrees of God

Memorization

Question 7: *What are the decrees of God?*

Answer: *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.*

Question 8: *How doth God execute his decrees?*

Answer: *God executeth his decrees in the works of creation and providence.*

Lecture Structure

1. Introduction.
2. God has an eternal purpose.
3. God wisely considered his purpose.
4. God ordered everything in his purpose toward the best goal.
5. God's purpose includes everything.
6. Conclusion.

Literal Study

Define these key terms:

1. Decree _____

2. Eternal purpose _____

3. Counsel of his will _____

4. Foreordained _____

5. Whatsoever comes to pass _____

6. Paraphrase Question and Answer #7, or put it into your own words.

7. Executeth _____

8. Works of creation _____

9. Works of providence _____

10. Paraphrase Question and Answer #8, or put it into your own words.

Lecture Checkup

1. Does God have one plan, or many plans? What are the characteristics of God's plan?

2. How did God determine all things? Why did he not go and seek advice from others?

3. Does God have a purpose for everything that he has determined to do? What is his purpose?

4. How should we respond to those who say that God is selfish in his motive to seek his own glory?

5. Does God's plan include every detail that takes place in all of the universe, and throughout all of history?

6. If God's plan is sovereign, does that mean he causes us to sin? How does the Bible explain this?

7. When we understand that God is sovereign over everything, how should that affect us?

8. Since God has a sovereign plan, does that mean we are just puppets? How should we respond to God's commands and promises that he has revealed in his Word?

9. Has God revealed all of his sovereign plan, or has he hidden part of it? What should our attitude be concerning those things which God has hidden from us?

10. How should we respond to all that God has revealed in his Word?

11. What comforts can the believer draw from the truth that God has sovereignly decreed everything that comes to pass for the very best purpose?

Further Studies

1. What are God's general decrees, and what are his special decrees?

2. Why does God decree to elect some to life, and others to reprobation?

3. Is anyone ever truly able to know whether they are of the elect or of the reprobate in this life?

Practical Application

1. Read the account of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel chapter 4. Meditate on what this story teaches us about God's sovereignty.

2. Meditate on Psalm 23. How does the psalmist show the expression of faith, of trusting God who is perfectly in control of all things, and of resting in his promises?

Project Ideas

Search for more texts that help you understand the doctrine of election and reprobation. Write about what comforts and exhortations this doctrine brings to you.
