

Jesus Christ Controls History: Law of Volitional Responsibility, Hos 8:7; Gal 6:7-8; the Preservation of Israel: Anti-Semitism; the 4 Unconditional Covenants

IV. Jesus Christ controls history through liability to the law of volitional responsibility.

1. Human volition is the first of the four divine institutions and is the soul's ability to make decisions. The two major stimuli for decision-making are rational thought and irrational emotion.
2. Good decisions are based on the strength of rational thought. The power of thought is found in the immutability of the Word of God.
3. Ignorance of rational thought and rejection of biblical absolutes renders decision-making ineffective and arbitrary.
4. The plan of God for the believer is expressed in Scripture and the volition of the believer is both challenged and instructed by imperative moods that identify divine policy.
5. Adherence to these mandates guides the believer into righteous behavior patterns and puts him in a position of strength.
6. Failure to either know these commandments or failure to submit to them causes the believer to make decisions from a position of weakness.
7. When a believer submits to the will of God as expressed in Scripture then Jesus Christ controls history in such a fashion that he is blessed.
8. When a believer deviates or ignores these guiding principles, then Jesus Christ controls history in such a fashion that he is disciplined.
9. The believer who advances qualifies for the conveyance of rewards associated with escrow blessings:

Hebrews 10:35 - Do not throw away as worthless your confidence [developed from doctrinal knowledge acquired through one's spiritual advance], which has a great anticipation of reward.

v. 36 - For you have need of perseverance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what is promised [escrow blessings in time and in eternity].

10. The believer who fails to advance joins with the unbeliever in the suffering associated with the laws of volitional responsibility, summarized in the warning expressed in:

Hosea 8:7a - They sow the wind and they reap the whirlwind.

11. This principle is picked up by Paul and he restates it in:

Galatians 6:7 - Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

12. Paul then summarizes both sides of this coin in the following verse:

Galatians 6:8 - For the one who habitually sows to his own flesh will from the flesh harvest corruption [discipline or cursing directed to carnal believers or unbelievers respectively], but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit harvest eternal life [escrow blessings reserved in heaven for the mature believer].

V. **Jesus Christ controls history through the preservation of Israel.**

1. Israel as a nation and the Jews as a people have an eternal future, guaranteed by the unconditional promises – or covenants – made to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David.

2. These unconditional covenants may be classified as a disposition:

Disposition. 9. In Scots law, a unilateral deed of alienation, by which a right to property, especially heritable, is conveyed.¹

3. These are binding only on the party making the contract. Each of the four unconditional covenants announced by God has four necessary components:

- 1) It is to be considered literal and therefore equivalent to a prophecy.
- 2) It is eternal in nature, meaning that following its fulfillment its provisions continue on forever.
- 3) Its fulfillment is dependent exclusively on the integrity of God with absolutely no human input required.
- 4) It is issued to Israel, not the church. The church was a mystery not yet revealed. Taken literally then, the fulfillment of these covenants will be to Israel in the Millennium.

4. The four unconditional covenants to Israel are:

- 1) **Abrahamic:** This is the promise to Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation whose lineage would encompass an innumerable number of people, later called Israel. This covenant was reiterated by the Lord to Isaac and Jacob. (Gen 12:1-3, Gen 13:15-16, Gen 15:18, Gen 22:15-18, Gen 26:3-4; Ex 6:2-8)
- 2) **Palestinian:** This is the land grant covenant that assigned to Israel all the real estate from the Nile River in the East to the Euphrates River in the West. (Genesis 15:18; Numbers 34:1-12; Deuteronomy 30:1-9; Josh 1:3-4)
- 3) **Davidic:** This is the promise of a ruling political dynasty for client nation Israel whose lineage runs through the tribe of Judah and the House of David. (2 Samuel 7:8-16; Psalm 89:20-37)

¹ Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary of the English Language: Unabridged, 2d ed. (Cleveland: The World Publishing Co., 1962), 1:529.

- 4) New: This is the promise that the client nation would be restored in the Millennium. (Jeremiah 31:31-34)
5. PRINCIPLE: If these covenants were given exclusively to Israel, if these covenants are unconditional, and if they are backed by the integrity of God, then it must be concluded that they must be fulfilled at some point in the future.