

7. The desires of God have to do with the principle that God the Father has been eternally aware of all that occurs throughout history. He is never caught off guard, and there is nothing about which He is unaware. Thus, the sovereignty of God and the free will of man coexist by the divine decree.
8. This means that God has integrity and thus maintains order in the universe. He has immutable standards that are designed to provide order for all time if His standards are followed.
9. That they are not followed is proof positive that the perfect environment established in Eden was lost because the free-will of man chose to violate divine standards.
10. God's standards are immutable, thus, violation of any one of them results in divine punishment, which entered the human race with the Fall of man.
11. Therefore, when believers opt for human viewpoint, human good, and evil, then to that degree peace, order, and prosperity gradually transforms the Zeitgeist so that disorder impacts and prevails for everyone.
12. History's first rebellion happened in Eden when Adam violated the divine command to not eat the forbidden fruit. His doing so resulted in the Fall of man. We recently studied the rebellion which occurred in the priest nation, Northern Kingdom, during the reign of Ahab and Jezebel. The rebellion presently threatening the downfall of client nation America is led by a host of ham actors repeating their lines, but whose strings are being pulled by those monied rebels who oppose the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States of America, the Bill of Rights, and subsequent Amendments.
13. Bottom Line: Every thought, decision, and action committed by Homo sapiens were eternally known by God. Therefore, the phrase, "If the Lord wills," refers to the divine decree and "If the Lord desires," is a good translation for this context.
14. This emphasizes the divine decree. God's decree advises against these two men thinking well of their plan and therefore intend to execute.
15. Therefore, God, through James, advises the men with grace orientation to then decide, "we will live and also do this or that."
16. James gives great advice to these men by reminding them of the divine decree and our place in that decree. With arrogance they are not qualified to make choices without consultation with divine viewpoint.
17. They are not enabled to make good choices when they function outside the divine dynasphere, most assuredly while in reversionism. This failure is why their first three assertions are not absolutes in verse 13, but guesswork.



18. It is pertinent to remember the definition and the details of the **Doctrine of the Divine Decree**:

- A. **Definition:** The Decree of God is His eternal, holy, wise, and sovereign purpose comprehending simultaneously all things that ever were and will be in their causes, conditions, successions, relations, and determining their certain futurity.
1. The source of the Decree is divine omniscience which God knew simultaneously in eternity past everything that would happen in human history—the thought, decision, and action of every person in human history and everything in relation to all things pertaining to it.
 2. The several contents of this one eternal purpose are, because of the limitation of our faculties, necessarily perceived by us in partial aspects and logical relations from Scripture.
 3. Therefore, we classify “the decrees” as being plural, but in reality it is all one Decree.
 4. Thus, the Divine Decree is His eternal and immutable will regarding the future existence of all events which will happen in time and the precise manner and order of their occurrence.
 5. The Decree of God is His eternal and immutable will regarding the future existence of all events which will happen in time and the precise manner and order of their occurrence.
 6. The term, Decree, refers to the eternal plan by which God has rendered certain all of the events of the universe, both angelic and human.
 7. The Decree is the all-inclusive will and purpose of God concerning all that ever was or will be and which He Himself alone must have objectively designed for His own glory and for His satisfaction.
 8. The Divine Decree is efficacious in that it determines all that ever was, all that is, and all that ever will be. The Decree is viewed by man from two standpoints: **(1) Efficacious**: that which is directly wrought by God from His sovereignty and **(2) Permissive** which is appointed by God to be accomplished by secondary causes or by the free will and action of agents, i.e., the free will of man.

(End JAS4-65.Rev. See JAS4-66.Rev for continuation of study at p. 651.)

