

The Inscrutable Question: Lapsarian Summary; The Last Judgment: Unbelievers & Nephilim at the Great White Throne, Rev 20:11-12a

John 3:16 - God demonstrated His unconditional and undiminished love to the world in the following manner: He gave His uniquely born Son for the purpose and with the result that anyone who believes in Him ...

This is included in the Order of Elective Decrees. Theologians have debated over two millennia about the logical order of the elective decrees. They are actually a small part of God's eternal decree that determined in eternity past the reality of every aspect of angelic and human history. To understand the elective decrees we must first review the definition of the Divine Decrees.

Thieme, R. B., Jr. *The Integrity of God*. 2d ed. (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 1998), 241:

The decree of God is His eternal, holy, wise, and sovereign purpose, *comprehending* simultaneously all things that ever were or will be—in their causes, courses, conditions, successions, and relations and *determining* their certain futurity. The source of the divine decrees is identified as being the omniscience of God "comprehending" all things in eternity past.

In the "comprehension of all things," omniscience is able to discern those events in angelic and human history that could have happened but did not. This is potential history but not actual history and is therefore not a part of the divine decrees.

On the other hand, omniscience is also able to discern those events in angelic and human history that actually do occur. This is reality. These events are inserted into the divine decrees since omniscience determined them to be true and actual. The decrees thus guarantee their "certain futurity."

The several contents of this one eternal purpose are, because of the limitations of our mentality and faculties, necessarily perceived by us in partial aspects in both logical and revealed relations. For this reason we often use the plural "decrees" to express the many facets of God's plan. In reality it is all *one* decree ... covering everything in all of what to us is past, present, and future history. At the time of the decrees, all angelic and human history was yet future.

The divine decrees are therefore in fact one simultaneous thought on the part of omniscient and sovereign God. However, in order to understand the infinite thought of God, finite man must analyze His one decree in "partial aspects." Although there is really only one simultaneous decree, we are able to discover a rational and logical order to God's thinking. We now want to isolate our discussion to the rational and logical order of election.

We have learned that election—*ἐκλέγω*, *eklego*—means "to choose something for oneself; to choose out as the recipients of special favor and privilege." As a part of the divine decree, God chose certain members of the human race to be the "recipients of special favor and privilege." The question has arisen among serious theologians as to *who* these elect are and *how* they were chosen as recipients of these favors and privileges.

We have established from Ephesians 1:3-4 that the "favor and privilege" constitutes all that is unique to the believer in Jesus Christ including the escrow blessings that are imputed in eternity past. The conveyance of these special blessings is contingent upon the fulfillment of certain conditions stated in the Escrow Agreement.

Those who make the advance to spiritual maturity receive this conveyance in two paragraphs: (1) in time and (2) at the evaluation throne of Christ.



- 24- We know that escrow blessings were imputed in eternity past and that the deposit occurred before election. The order of elective decrees that is supported by biblical revelation is referred to as Infralapsarianism.
- 25- It is one of three major developments of this concept. The one subscribed to by the hyper-Calvinists contends that God elected only a predetermined few for salvation in eternity past and as a result these few were the only members of the human race for whom Christ died.
- 26- This view is known as Supralapsarianism and stresses limited atonement. We will continue our look at the Lapsarian Controversy at the 2002 Shreveport Bible Conference.

G. The Last Judgment: The Great White Throne

- 1- Those who were deceived by the duplicity and deceit of Lucifer and his emissaries will buy their lies and thus reject the salvation offered through the Person and work of Christ.
- 2- They will become involved in executing Lucifer's plan of human good and evil motivated by human viewpoint. As a result they will conclude that their good deeds are sufficient credentials to justify their worthiness to enter into heaven.
- 3- However, their contentions will be cross-examined by the Lord at the Great White Throne judgment.

Jewell, Elizabeth J. and Frank Abate (eds.). *The New Oxford American Dictionary*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001), 408:

Cross-examine. Question a witness called by the other party in a court of law to discredit or undercut testimony already given.

- 4- All of Satan's reprobate witnesses during human history's phase of the angelic conflict will appear before this throne.
- 5- In fact, it is the very same throne we have recently encountered in our study of the believer's evaluation before the Lord following the Rapture of the Church.
- 6- On this occasion, however, only unbelievers and the Nephilim are called before the Supreme Court of Heaven.
- 7- The major passage that documents this final judgment is found in Revelation 20:11-15. We will note it briefly in order to emphasize the eternal fate of those unbelievers who become entangled in the dark side of morality.

Revelation 20:11 - I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

v. 12 - And I saw the dead, the great and small, standing before the throne, and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

- 8- The dead are those who were born spiritually dead and who, during their physical life, never acquired eternal life through faith alone in Christ alone. The "books"—plural—refer to discovery evidence recorded in heaven documenting the works of human good and evil performed by these unbelievers. The "book"—singular—is the book of life which catalogues every person's name at the moment of physical birth but from which the names of unbelievers are blotted out at the moment of their physical deaths. The latter are going to be judged based on their works, not their sins.



- 9- Note that these dead are standing before the throne. This indicates that this is the Second Resurrection. Their bodies have been resurrected from their graves and their souls have been brought out of Torments to unite with their bodies before the Great White Throne where they will be arraigned.