

THREE VIEWS ON THE ORDER OF DIVINE DECREES

God's predetermined purposes are considered in Scripture as "decreed before the ages" (1 Cor. 2:7). Christians debate the nature and order of these decrees. The divine decrees are eternal, so their "order" is logical, not chronological.

CALVINISTIC SUPRALAPSARIANISM

election/reprobation
before (supra) the fall (laps)



1. Predestine/elect some **individuals** to salvation and reprobate others (not yet considered as fallen);



2. **Create**;



3. Ordain or permit the **fall**;



4. Appoint **Christ** to redeem the elect;



5. Provide **means** of salvation to the elect (Holy Spirit to regenerate and preserve).

CALVINISTIC INFRALAPSARIANISM

election/reprobation
after (infra) the fall (laps)



1. **Create**;



2. Permit the **fall**;



3. Predestine/elect some created and fallen **individuals** to eternal life and pass over (single predestination) or reprobate (double predestination) others;



4. Appoint **Christ** to redeem the elect;



5. Provide **means** of salvation to the elect (Holy Spirit to regenerate and preserve).

ARMINIAN PREDESTINATION

election in/after
Christ



1. **Create**;



2. Permit the **fall**;



3. Appoint **Christ** to be the Savior of humanity;



4. Save, in Christ, the class of believers (**corporate** election) and condemn unbelievers outside of Christ;



5. Provide the **means** of grace (the Spirit) for repentance and faith;



6. Save or condemn **individuals** foreknown to believe or not believe.

"Predestination, when [properly] explained, is the foundation of Christianity, and of salvation and its certainty. ... it is the gospel itself, and on that account necessary to be believed in order to salvation."
—Jacob Arminius