

To the 12 disciples including Thomas one week later.

John 20:26–31. □

To seven of the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias (Galilee).

John 21:1–2. □

To the apostles plus over 500 believers. Matthew 28:16–20; 1 Corinthians 15:6. □

To James, the Lord’s half-brother. 1 Corinthians 15:7. □

His final appearance at the Mount of Olives just before His ascension. Luke 24:50–52; Acts 1:3–12. □

b. After the ascension but before the Second Advent: □

To Stephen at his stoning. Acts 7:55. □

To Paul at his conversion on the Damascus Road. Acts 9:3–5. □

To Paul at the home of Titus Justus in Corinth. Acts 8:9–10.

To Paul at the Temple in Jerusalem. Acts 22:17–21. □

To Paul while under the protective custody of Captain Cláudius Lysias in Jerusalem. Acts 23:10–11. □

To Paul in a vision. 2 Corinthians 12:1–4. □

To John on the Isle of Patmos. Revelation 1:10–19. □

12. The Second Advent is the future historical event which marks the personal and physical return of Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His Millennial reign on David’s throne in Jerusalem for 1,000 years. See: Joel 3:16–17; Zechariah 14:9; 1 Timothy 6:14–15; Revelation 19:11–20:6. □

2. Direct Intervention by means of the Acts of God:

1. The term “act of God” has the following definitions in the following dictionaries: □

act of God. Law. An inevitable accident; such an interruption of the usual course of events that no experience, foresight, or care which might reasonably be expected could have foreseen or guarded against it.¹ □

act of God: an extraordinary interruption by a natural cause (as a flood or earthquake) of the usual course of events that experience, prescience, or care cannot reasonably foresee or prevent.² □

¹ Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary, 2d ed. (Springfield, Mass.: G. & C. Merriam Co., Publishers, 1953), s.v. “act of God.”

² Webster’s Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary (G. & C. Merriam Co., Publishers, 1963), s.v. “act of God.”



act of God. 1. A violent or destructive natural event, such as a lightning strike or earthquake. 2. Law An occurrence such as a natural event, that is beyond human control and whose consequences are therefore not a basis for legal liability.³ □

2. Since it is Jesus Christ Who controls history, to be theologically accurate, this term should really be defined as, “Acts of Christ.” □
 - a. **Weather.** The global weather machine is under the supervision of Christ, Who delegates control to the Cherub Commander of the Angelic Weather Service and its four Weather Wings noted in Revelation 7. □

NOTE: Chapter 7 reveals how people are evangelized during the Tribulation. Angels are deployed to restrain divine judgment until the divine command is issued from the Lord. □

Revelation 7:1 After these things, I saw four angels [Pursuivant messenger angels (wingless)] standing ready [on Red Alert to deliver Divine Judgement] at the four corners [quadrants] of the earth restraining the four winds [one 'wind system' for each of the 4 quadrants] in order that no judgment or disciplinary wind should blow on the land or on the sea or against any tree. □

NOTE: This verse indicates that it is the angels who control weather. Each of the four weather angels controls the winds of one quadrant. □

Actually, there are 12 total wind cells, three cells to each quadrant of the earth. □

Revelation 7:2 Then I saw another angel [Pursuivant officer, Cherub rank and commander of the 4 Pursuivant messenger angels of the previous verse] who had the seal of the living God [a reference to the wall of fire], coming up from the east and he shouted a command with a loud voice to the four pursuivant angels to those who were given power and authority to damage the land and the sea. □

NOTE: What follows is a Restraining Order to the Weather Angels from their commander: □

³ *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, fifth ed. (New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016), s.v. “act of God.”



Revelation 7:3 And he [the Cherub Commander] commanded [negative command from higher authority], "Do not damage the land [the earth's surface] or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads [refers to the 144,000 Jewish evangelists (see Revelation 7:4–8)]. (EXT)

NOTE: Grace always proceeds judgment. The natural disasters from the wind (hurricanes, tornadoes, storms, etc.) are held up until every unbeliever in the Tribulation has been evangelized. □

b. Earthquakes. An earthquake was the catalyst which delivered Paul and Silas from the Philippian jail in: □

Acts 16:25 But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God and the prisoners were listening to them; □

v. 26 and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. □

c. Floods. The universal flood was a direct intervention into human history by Jesus Christ in order to preserve the Pivot of that day: Noah, his wife, his sons, and their wives: □

Genesis 7:4 "For after seven more days, I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights; and I will blot out from the face of the land every living thing that I have made." □

Genesis 7:10 It came about after the seven days, that the water of the flood came upon the earth. □

Genesis 7:11b ... all the fountains of the great deep burst open and the floodgates of the sky were opened. □

d. Creation: The entire universe, its matter, energy, and space, were all created in a yactosecond of time in eternity past by divine fiat. In Genesis 1:1, the Hebrew verb "create" is **בָּרָא** (*bara'*) and means "to create something out of nothing." Thus, where nothing previously existed, by the command of God, all things came into existence. The Person of the Trinity Who was the Agent of this creative act was Jesus Christ. □



John 1:3 All things came into being through Him; and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. □

NOTE: The antecedent of the pronoun “Him” is identified in verse 14 which says, “The Word became flesh and tabernacled among us.” □

Colossians 1:15 By means of Whom [**Jesus Christ**] we have redemption through His blood, the cancellation of sins. □

Colossians 1:16 For by means of Him [**Jesus Christ, v. 15**] all things were created [κτίζω (*ktízō*): to produce from nothing, Gen. 1:1], both in the heavens and on earth, the visible things [**the universe**] and invisible things [**mathematics**], whether human governments or constituted authorities, or angelic rulers and authorities: all things through Him and for His purpose have been created. □

v. 17 He eternally existed before all things, and by means of Him all things hold together [**intensive perfect active indicative of συνίστημι (*sunístēmi*): emphasizes the results of a past action, i.e., gravity**]. (EXT) □

3. Direct Intervention through Divine Sovereignty

1. The three members of the Godhead coordinate their control of history through several sovereign acts which occurred in eternity past. □
2. Sovereignty over life and death: God chooses both the manner and time of a person’s death. The manner is determined by the wisdom of God while the time is a decision from the sovereignty of God. In His wisdom, He knows the best way for you to die. In His sovereignty, He dictates the precise time, noted in: □

Job 1:21b “The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.” □

Psalms 116:15 Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His godly ones. □

3. Guardian Angels: Hebrews 1 establishes the fact that angels are not on a par with Christ but they are servants of Homo sapiens. □

Hebrews 1:14 “Are they [**see “Angels” in *The Scofield Study Bible*: NASB, p. 1670, NIV, p. 1595, or KJV, pp. 1311–12**] not all ministering spirits, sent forth to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?” □

NOTE: Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer provides helpful insight into the “faithful service” of angels in his *Systematic Theology*: □

The faithful service of angels to mankind cannot be explained on the ground of their own love for humanity.

They are interested in that which concerns their God. □

If He would give his Son to die for a lost race of men, they would follow Him as far as possible and at least give instant service, for His sake, wherever it is appointed unto them. It is not imagination but reality that the angels are servants of men in a thousand ways.⁴ □

It is the duty of angels to preserve the elect unto the day of their salvation and to be servants to them afterward. □

Psalm. 91:11 “He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;

v. 12 they will lift you up in their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. (NIV) □

Your “narrow escapes” are not so narrow after all. Angels are assigned to the elect at birth to ensure that they do not fall victim to Satanic assault before the Gospel can be heard and followed by a response, positive or negative. After the elect are saved, angels continue to provide protection and security against the unforeseen. □

4. **The Divine Decree:** The Trinity, in eternity past, by means of omniscience, was able to identify every problem we would ever face in life. Through Their grace, solutions were also placed into the Divine Decree. □

This is how Jesus Christ goes ahead of us in order to solve our problems: □

Deuteronomy 31:8 “The Lord is the One Who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.” □

Isaiah 46:10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, ‘My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure’; □

⁴ Lewis Sperry Chafer, “The Mystery of the Angels” in *Systematic Theology: Angelology* (Dallas: Dallas Seminary Press, 1947), 2:22.



5. Answers to prayer are already in the Divine Decree. □

Mark 11:24 “Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe [**present active imperative of πιστεύω (pisteúō)**] that you have received them, and they will be granted you.” □

6. The verb, “believe,” is πιστεύω, and means “to place your faith in that which is believed.” Your faith must be placed in an object which is both unchangeable and trustworthy. The only such object known to mankind is Scripture, the Word of God. □

Your prayer requests must be structured from concepts which agree with God’s will, plan, and purpose. □

Such knowledge is available only through inculcation and facilitation of Scripture. □

Under the filling of the Holy Spirit, the believer will formulate a prayer from doctrine resident in his soul and thus ask for those things which promote the will, plan, and purpose of God. □

A basic question one might ask of himself regarding his prayers would be, “Is that for which I am about to pray necessary before I can do God’s will?” □

To pray a prayer which you know is incongruous with the plan of God would generate doubt and, therefore, unbelief. □

Example: To pray for God to override one’s volition and save an unbeliever violates the plan and will of God and cannot be answered. □

To ask the ability to do God’s will, but through extraordinary means, is a violation of the plan and will of God. □

Example: To pray that yourself or someone else will be healed of terminal cancer; or to pray for the gift of miracles and healing so you can heal yourself or others. □

Under the filling of the Holy Spirit, the believer will formulate a prayer from doctrine resident in his soul and thus ask for only those things which promote the plan and will of God. □

Example: If you don’t know any doctrine at all, there is one obvious prayer you can pray and know God will answer it. You can pray as David did in: □

Psalms 25:4 Make me know Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. □

v. 5a Lead me in Your Truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; ☐

Psalm 86:11a Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; ☐

Psalm 119:18 Open my eyes that I may behold wonderful things from Your law. ☐

Psalm 119:33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes, and I shall observe it to the end. ☐

v. 34 Give me understanding, that I may observe Your law and keep it with all my heart. ☐

v. 35 Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it. ☐

v. 36 Incline my heart to Your testimonies and not to dishonest gain. ☐

v. 37 Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity, and revive me in Your ways. ☐

v. 38 Establish Your Word to Your servant, as that which produces reverence for You. ☐

Psalm 119:66 Teach me good discernment and knowledge, for I believe in Your commandments. ☐

Psalm 119:124 Deal with Your servant according to Your lovingkindness and teach me Your statutes. ☐

v. 125 I am Your servant; give me understanding that I may know Your testimonies. ☐

Psalm 119:133 Establish my footsteps in Your Word, and do not let any iniquity have dominion over me. ☐

Psalm 143:8c Teach me the way in which I should walk; for to You I lift up my soul. ☐

v. 9 Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies; I take refuge in You. ☐

v. 10 Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground. ☐

Principle: There are conceivably those in everyone's general area who have placed their personal faith in Jesus Christ for salvation and have concluded that knowledge of Scripture is the sine qua n^on—that which is indispensable—of the believer's obligation to God. The above passages from Psalms are also directed to members of Grace Doctrine Church, East Ridge Bible Church, et al., who should each be on red alert to fulfill this duty with verses of encouragement and enlightenment to these new believers. □

I implore you regarding these things under the principle that the answers to prayers are already in the divine decree. The only thing that can cause them to fail is the overriding veto power of human volition. □

7. Another aspect of divine sovereignty's control of history is the principle of God's perfect timing. □
 1. God has perfectly timed our lives in the ROM chip of the Divine Decree. □
 2. The method which He has instituted to synchronize our lives with His perfect timing is our understanding of Scripture. □
 3. Consequently, prior to salvation, our timing was completely off with reference to the will, plan, and purpose of God. □
 4. Anyone who is an unbeliever right now is suffering from this absence of timing. □
 5. Among the greatest of the timing mechanisms are the 10 problem-solving devices. You either make good decisions based on Biblical analysis or bad decisions based on human analysis. □
 6. Good timing thus becomes a part of good leadership dynamics. One who is doctrinally oriented is able to effectively lead an organization. □
 7. Any success accomplished under human timing is called luck while success accomplished under God's timing is called blessing. □
 8. Bad timing from human viewpoint results in what is called bad luck but in reality, is lost opportunity. □
 9. Good timing from divine viewpoint results in what we call prosperity and is in reality the exploitation of opportunity. □