



Calvinism : An Introduction



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- **The History of John Calvin**
- **The Foundation of his doctrine (Misconception of God's Sovereignty)**

– *“Now... God...arranges all things...he has decreed that they are so to happen...it is clear that all events take place by his sovereign appointment.”*

“Scriptures clearly prove...that God by his eternal and immutable counsel determined once for all those who it was his pleasure one day to admit to salvation, and those whom, on the other hand, it was his pleasure to doom to destruction.” (John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion)



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- *“Individuals are born, who are doomed from the womb to a certain death, and are to glorify him by their destruction.”* (John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion)

- *“God, from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass.”* (Presbyterian Confession of Faith, chap 3, sec 1)

- “God’s decrees are the wise, free, and holy acts of the counsel of his will, whereby, from all eternity, he hath, for his own glory, unchangeably fore-ordained whatsoever comes to pass, especially concerning angels and men.”* (Larger Catechism)



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- **Calvin’s Fundamental Presuppositions**
 - Divine Sovereignty = Absolute Predestination
Of All Human Events

 - Divine Inspiration = Knowledge of Scriptures
By Direct Intervention
of the Holy Spirit



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- **Calvin's Presumptions Answered**

- Now please note the doctrine under review. It is not that God has from all eternity ordained, but that he has 'unchangeably' ordained; not some things, but whatsoever cometh to pass—everything.
- God ordained that in 40 days Nineveh shall be destroyed but 'changed' his mind (**Jonah 3:4**)
 - Did God deceive Jonah knowing that he ordained it not to be destroyed? Did God lie saying, "I'm going to destroy it" when before the foundation of the world he "unchangeably fore-ordained" that he would not? "Let God be true and every man a liar"
 - Is it not more in harmony with the text that God was going to destroy it unless by the free will of the Ninevites they repented?



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- **Calvin's Presumptions Answered**

- God ordained that Hezekiah shall die, yet later adds 15 yrs to his life (**2 Kg 20**)
 - Here the prayers and tears of Hezekiah changed the decree of God.
 - Did God deceive Hezekiah knowing that he ordained that he would not die?
 - Did God lie saying, "You are going to die" when before the foundation of the world he "unchangeably fore-ordained" that he would not for 15 years?
 - "Let God be true and every man a liar"



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- **Calvin's Presumptions Answered**
 - Saul pursuing David to Keilah but did not go? (**1 Sam 23:11-13**)
 - Did God decree from all eternity 'everything' that was going to come to pass?
 - According to Calvinism, it should read, "Saul will not come down, nor will Keilah deliver you into his hands for I have unchangeably ordained that you will leave that place."
 - This is what happened. Yet did God choose to deceive David when he said "Saul will come down." When before the world began he knew he wouldn't?
 - *Or is it more accurate to believe that God allowed foreknowledge to be conditioned upon David's free-will choice?*



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- **Calvin's Presumptions Answered**
 - **Gen 6:5-6**
 - Why be sorry if he made it be, if he foreordained it to happen?
 - **Gen 22:12**
 - Now shouldn't God have said, "I already knew from the foundation of the world?" But instead he says, "now I know." Inferring before that he didn't! He was testing him, but why test if the outcome was already unchangeably foreordained?
 - Incomprehensible, unless free-will and human choice enter the picture.
 - **Jer. 7:31; 19:5**
 - This did come to pass the Jews did do this, yet God said it never came into his mind that they should do them!
 - How did God unchangeably foreordain things, which never entered his mind?



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- **Calvin's Presumptions Answered**
 - “Now, if this doctrine of foreordination be true then it would be impossible for man to err. Because whatever man does is in keeping and brought about by God's predetermined decree and therefore cannot be wrong. If he does anything—it matters not what—whether good or bad—if God has ordained every thing, He has ordained that thing. If it comes to pass that a man lies, God has not ordained that he should lie, but He has unchangeably ordained it.” (TW. Brents, Gospel Plan of Salvation, p8)
 - “And if the Presumptions of Calvin be true then the whole theory of sin, accountability, rewards, and punishments, in harmony with justice and mercy, are incomprehensible. Every act of man is but carrying out the unchangeable purposes of God.” (TW Brents)



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- **T.U.L.I.P; Calvin's doctrinal system as it relates to the spiritual condition of man.**
 - **T**otal Hereditary Depravity
 - U**nconditional Election
 - L**imited Atonement
 - I**rresistible Grace
 - P**erseverance of the Saints

