

# God Decreed It To Happen

## Part 2

### Lapsarianism

(Lap What?)

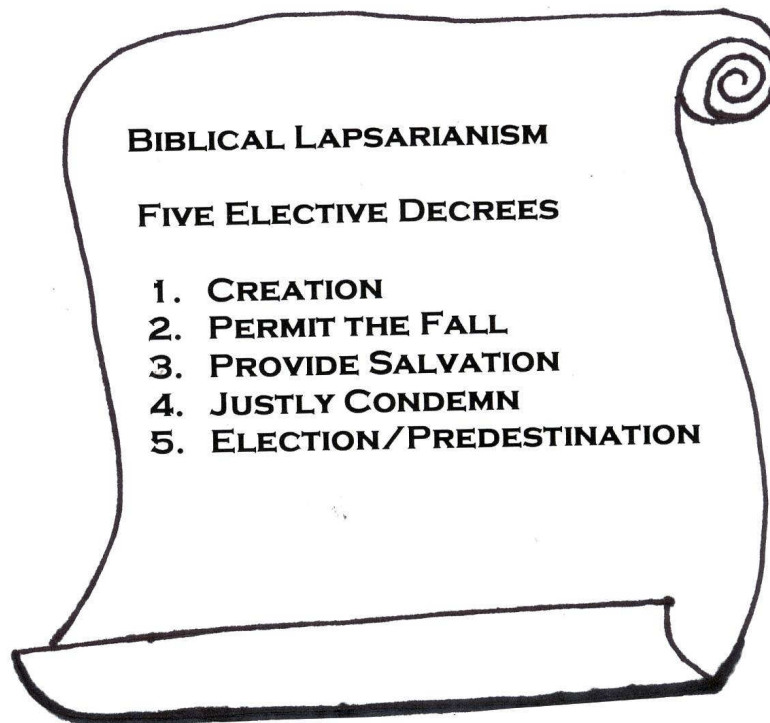


**BIBLICAL LAPSARIANISM**

**FIVE ELECTIVE DECREES**

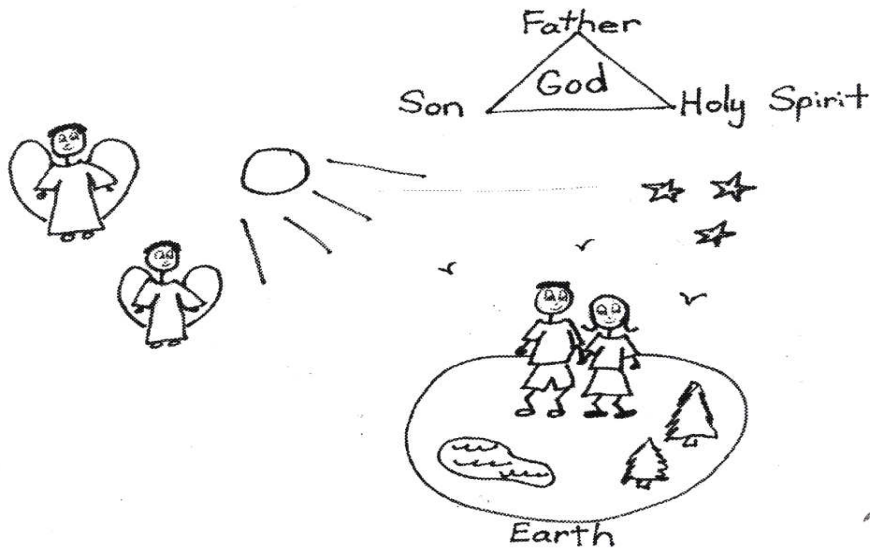
1. CREATION
2. PERMIT THE FALL
3. PROVIDE SALVATION
4. JUSTLY CONDEMN
5. ELECTION/PREDESTINATION

Of all the decrees that God made, five are linked or connected to the purpose of God in election. Therefore, they are called the five elective decrees. The order in which these decrees happened we call **lapsarianism**. Lap what? **Lapsarianism** is really not a mysterious word. It just takes a little explanation. Lapsarianism comes from the Latin word for "fall". When we are talking about the five elective decrees and using the word **lapsarianism**, we are talking from the fact that man is a fallen being or creature. In Christianity, it is the study of the order in which God made the decrees in connection with the fall of man. That's lap what! As far as God is concerned, He decreed it in an instant; He is omniscient and has always known everything at once. But for our understanding, He needed to put the decrees in order for us. So, He made **Biblical lapsarianism**.

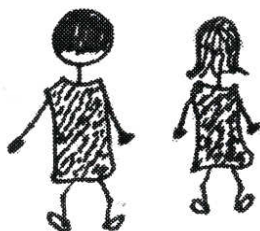


# Biblical Lapsarianism

1. **Create:** God decreed to create mankind with free will in the state of perfection. Thus, He created Adam and Eve. He did this in order to resolve the prehistoric angelic conflict. He wanted to show Satan and the other fallen angels how just and righteous and good He is. God also wanted to bring many sons, believers, to glory or to great rejoicing!



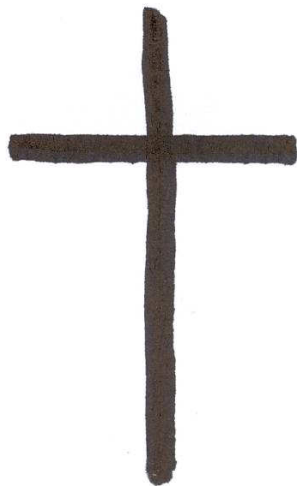
2. **Permit the Fall:** God decreed to permit mankind's fall by man using his own free will. When Adam and Eve fell, it was just like when Satan and the angels fell before human history. So, human history was repeating angelic history, which is why we are part of the Angelic Conflict. We will be in the angelic conflict until we die. It is a spiritual conflict and we need to use spiritual weapons.



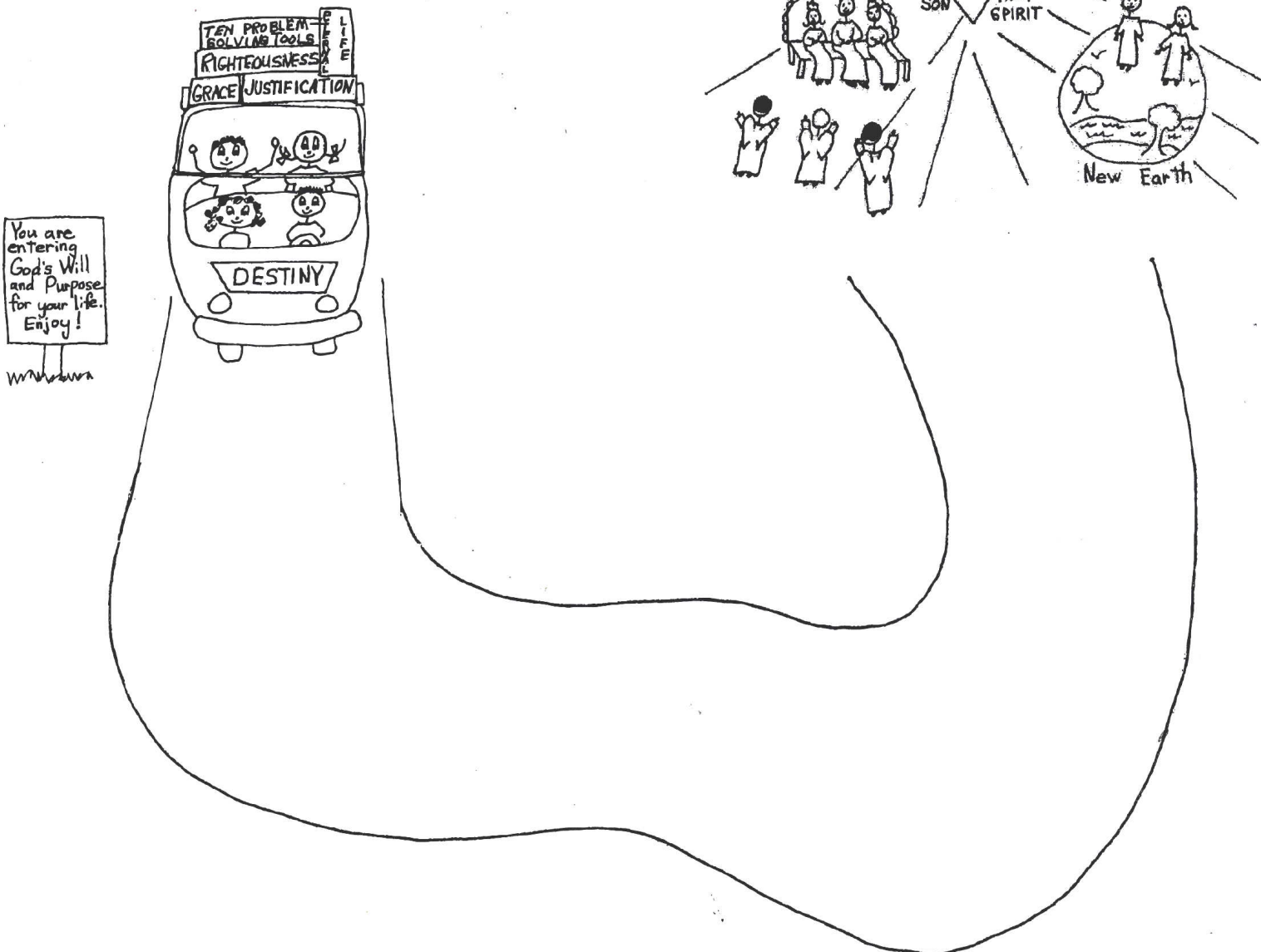
**3. Salvation:** God decreed to provide eternal salvation for all mankind under the doctrine of unlimited atonement. This means that Jesus Christ paid the price for **everyone's** sins. The only thing that keeps anyone out of heaven is not believing in Jesus Christ as his or her Savior. What a loving, merciful, just, and forgiving God we have! Satan constantly wants us to question God's character and nature. He doesn't want us to know the plan of salvation. Satan doesn't want us to know that God is loving, merciful, forgiving, just and deals with us in grace! God takes such good care of us if we let Him! So, let's walk with God and not with Satan!



4. **Justly Condemn:** God decreed to leave those who reject Christ as Savior to their just condemnation. Remember, not believing in Jesus Christ as our Savior is the only sin that will condemn us. God gives everyone many times and opportunities to make a choice to believe. He can never be unjust, unfair, or unloving. Those who reject Jesus Christ use **their own free wills** to say **no** to salvation. During their life times, they have said **no** to salvation many times. Bad decisions!



**5. Election and Predestination:** God decreed simultaneously in eternity past both election and predestination for believers only. **Election** is the expression of the sovereign will of God in eternity past. In Election, God wills His highest and best for every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. **Predestination** is the provision of the sovereign will of God in eternity past for the believer. God supplies the believer with everything that he needs to live in God's plan, purpose, and will for his life. God wants to bless the socks off of every believer! Living in the plan of God, the believer will get capacity and can enjoy all the blessings that God has for him! Remember, God has blessings for us that stagger the imagination! Let's have our imaginations staggered!



Now there are four other types of lapsarianism: supra-lapsarianism, sub-lapsarianism, infra-lapsarianism, and Armenian lapsarianism. That's a mouthful for anyone! None of these have the events of the five elective decrees in proper order. Only Biblical lapsarianism does. We're going to compare just one, supra-lapsarianism, with Biblical lapsarianism.

**Biblical Lapsarianism**

**Supra-lapsarianism**

1. Create
2. Permit the Fall
3. Salvation
4. Justly Condemn
5. Election/Predestination

- Elect
- Salvation
- Create
- Permit the Fall
- Limited Atonement



## Supra-lapsarianism

In supra-lapsarianism, the decree to elect comes first. Those who believe this say that God made a decree to **elect** some to be saved and to reject all others. They are saying that some are predestined to go to heaven and some are predestined to go to hell! For heaven's sake! This is not how God works! This ignores the justice and fairness of God. (2 Peter 3:9) No one is predestined to hell. It is our choice to believe or not to believe in Jesus Christ. Those who do believe in Jesus Christ are predestined to go to heaven. Also, how can election be the first decree since no one had been created? Election can't come before creation and election can't come before the fall! **Election** is for believers only so it has to be last; it has to be number five.



Ephesians 1:5

[believers only] to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will....

He predestined us

Those who believe in supra-lapsarianism say that next God decreed to provided **salvation** only for the elect. They say that salvation really begins, not when you believe in Christ, but in eternity past when people were elected. This means limited atonement for sin, or that Christ died for some but not for all. This is totally wrong! At birth we were **all** born physically alive but spiritually dead. 1 Corinthians 15:22 *For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive.* **All** of us have the opportunity to believe in Jesus Christ as our Savior and go to heaven. **Salvation** has to be third; it has to come after creation and the fall.

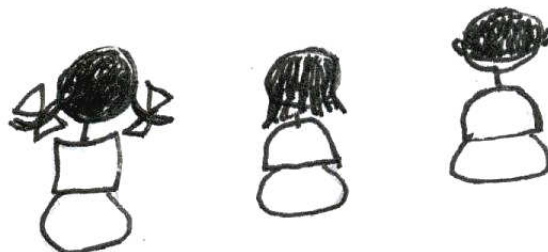


1 Timothy 2:3-4 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

They say that the third thing that God decreed was to **create** man, both elect and non-elect. How could God elect, their first decree, and save or not save, their second decree, someone that didn't exist? **Creation** has to be first.



In their belief, the fourth in line was for God to permit the **fall**. The problem with this is that it places election and limited atonement before the fall instead of after the fall. Man had to fall before salvation could be provided, and salvation was provided for **all** mankind. Atonement was made for all mankind's sins, not a limited amount! Man only has to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will be saved. Then those who do chose to believe are elected to go to heaven. The **fall** has to be right after creation, so it has to be the second elective decree!



Then fifth is the decree to **save** the elect. They say that God selected some people to be saved and the rest to be lost, no matter what they do or think. This is one of the main problems with supra-lapsarianism; it ignores the part played by human volition in human history. It ignores the fact that by their own free choices to reject Jesus Christ as Savior, people are justly condemned to the lake of fire. What is the purpose of even being around if we don't have a choice for salvation? Supra-lapsarianism is out of order!



2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not willing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance [a change of mind].

God, in His sovereignty and omniscience, put the five elective decrees in a special order so that He would be glorified. The Biblical lapsarianism glorifies God perfectly. This order shows the tremendous grace and mercy of God, which is the very grace and mercy that Satan denies. It is Biblical lapsarianism that puts election last as the crown jewel of God's grace and love. We are all left here in order to advance to spiritual maturity. We are here to receive divine blessings from the justice of God imputed to the righteousness of God in us. We are here to reveal God's goodness, love, mercy and forgiveness. We are left here to have capacity and enjoyment for life! Let's live in God's predesigned plan for our lives and let Him reveal His glory!



## Activity Page

Put the elective decrees in order. Then put them in the flags.  
Fall, Salvation, Election and Predestination, Creation,  
Just Condemnation

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

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References: Robert McLaughlin Bible Ministries

[www.gbible.org](http://www.gbible.org)

Lessons: 8-26-07, 8-31-07, 9-5-07

Tree of Life: 8-26-07, 9-9-07