

## An Exposition of the 2<sup>nd</sup> (1689) London Baptist Confession

### Chapter 3.1-2: Of God's Decree

1. God <sup>1</sup>has decreed in himself, from all eternity, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely and unchangeably, all things, whatsoever comes to pass; <sup>a</sup> yet so as thereby is God neither the author of sin<sup>2</sup> nor has fellowship with any therein; <sup>b</sup> nor is violence offered to the will of the creature, nor yet is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established; <sup>c</sup> <sup>3</sup>in which appears His wisdom in disposing all things, and power and faithfulness in accomplishing His decree. <sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Isa. 46:10; Eph. 1:11; Heb. 6:17; Rom. 9:15,18 <sup>b</sup> James 1:13; 1 John 1:5 <sup>c</sup> Acts 4:27–28; John 19:11

<sup>d</sup> Num. 23:19; Eph. 1:3–5

1. God has decreed in himself, from all eternity, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely and unchangeably, all things, whatsoever comes to pass.

a. Isaiah 46:10

b. Ephesians 1:11

c. Hebrews 6:17-18

d. Romans 9:15-18

[Cf. Proverbs 16:33 and James 4:13-15.]

2. Yet so as thereby is God neither the author of sin nor has fellowship with any therein.

a. James 1:13

b. 1 John 1:5

3. Nor is violence offered to the will of the creature, nor yet is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established.

a. Acts 4:27-28

b. John 19:11

4. In which appears His wisdom in disposing all things, and power and faithfulness in accomplishing His decree.

a. Numbers 23:19

b. Ephesians 1:3-5

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<sup>1</sup> 2LBC adds the phrase "has decreed in Himself" and subsequently leaves out the word "ordain" later.

<sup>2</sup> 2LBC adds the phrase "nor has fellowship with any therein".

<sup>3</sup> All that follows is added by 2LBC.

2. Although God knows whatsoever may or can come to pass, upon all supposed conditions,<sup>a</sup> yet has He not decreed anything, because He foresaw it as future, or as that which would come to pass upon such conditions.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Acts 15:18 <sup>b</sup> Rom. 9:11,13,16,18

1. God knows everything that can and will happen and even what could happen in any conditions.
  - a. Acts 15:18.
  - b. Matthew 11:21.
2. However, he did not decree anything because he foresaw it (Romans 9:11).
  - a. This is a refutation of the Arminian interpretation of Romans 8:29.
  - b. This is a refutation of Molinism.