

# THE DOCTRINE OF GOD: THE GOD WHO UPHOLDS

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**Hebrews 1:1–3** says, "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup>He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power."

**Colossians 1:15–17** says, "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup>For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

**WCF and LBCF (5.1)** says, "God the good Creator of all things, in his infinite power and wisdom doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures and things, from the greatest even to the least, by his most wise and holy providence, to the end for the which they were created, according unto his infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of his own will; to the praise of the glory of his wisdom, power, justice, infinite goodness, and mercy."

## GOD'S \_\_\_\_\_ CONTROL

*We saw from God's decree that God sets out to do he accomplishes. He does this because of his providential control. His governing all things is effective—God actually and effectually accomplishes what he purposes. God never fails.*

**Jeremiah 32:27** says, "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me?" (cf. **Gen 18:14**)

**Isaiah 14:24–27** says, "The Lord of hosts has sworn: 'As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand, <sup>25</sup>that I will break the Assyrian in my land, and on my mountains trample him underfoot; and his yoke shall depart from them, and his burden from their shoulder.' <sup>26</sup>This is the purpose that is purposed concerning the whole earth, and this is the hand that is stretched out over all the nations. <sup>27</sup>For the Lord of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back?"

**Isaiah 55:10–11** says, "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

**Proverbs 21:30** says, "No wisdom, no understanding, no counsel can avail against the Lord."

**Isaiah 46:9–11** says, "I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, <sup>10</sup>declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,' <sup>11</sup>calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it."

**Daniel 4:35** says, "All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, 'What have you done?'"

**Isaiah 64:8** says, "But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand" (cf. **Isa 29:16; 45:9; Jer 18:1–10; Rom 9:19–24**).

**Psalms 33:11** says, "The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations."

**Psalms 115:3** says, "Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases."

**Psalms 135:6** says, "Whatever the Lord pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps."

**Isaiah 43:13** says, "Also henceforth I am he; there is none who can deliver from my hand; I work, and who can turn it back?"

**Revelation 3:7** says, "The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens."

## GOD'S \_\_\_\_\_ CONTROL

### 1. God Upholds All \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalms 65:9–11** says, "You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide their grain, for so you have prepared it. <sup>10</sup>You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth. <sup>11</sup>You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with abundance."

**Psalms 104:14** says, "You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth"

**Psalms 104:27–29** says, "These all look to you, to give them their food in due season. <sup>28</sup>When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. <sup>29</sup>When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust."

**Psalms 135:7, 25** says, "He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth, who makes lightnings for the rain and brings forth the wind from his storehouses.... he who gives food to all flesh, for his steadfast love endures forever."

**Psalms 145:15–16** says, "The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. <sup>16</sup>You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing" (cf. **147:8–9, 15–18; 148:8; Jer 5:22; 10:13; 31:35**).

**Matthew 5:45** says, "For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (cf. **Acts 14:17**).

**Matthew 6:26–30** says, "Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"<sup>27</sup> And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?<sup>28</sup> And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin,<sup>29</sup> yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.<sup>30</sup> But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"

## 2. God's Directs \_\_\_\_\_ for His \_\_\_\_\_

**Job 37:6–13** says, "For to the snow he says, 'Fall on the earth,' likewise to the downpour, his mighty downpour.<sup>7</sup> He seals up the hand of every man, that all men whom he made may know it.<sup>8</sup> Then the beasts go into their lairs, and remain in their dens.<sup>9</sup> From its chamber comes the whirlwind, and cold from the scattering winds.<sup>10</sup> By the breath of God ice is given, and the broad waters are frozen fast.<sup>11</sup> He loads the thick cloud with moisture; the clouds scatter his lightning.<sup>12</sup> They turn around and around by his guidance, to accomplish all that he commands them on the face of the habitable world.<sup>13</sup> Whether for correction or for his land or for love, he causes it to happen."

**Jonah 4:6–7** says, "Now the Lord God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant.<sup>7</sup> But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered."

**Amos 4:7** says, "I also withheld the rain from you when there were yet three months to the harvest; I would send rain on one city, and send no rain on another city; one field would have rain, and the field on which it did not rain would wither" (cf. **Gen 41:28–32**).

## 3. God Directs Even the \_\_\_\_\_ Events

**Proverbs 16:33** says, "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord."

**1 Kings 22:34** says, "But a certain man drew his bow at random and struck the king of Israel between the scale armor and the breastplate. Therefore he said to the driver of his chariot, 'Turn around and carry me out of the battle, for I am wounded.'"

**Judges 9:53** says, "And a certain woman threw an upper millstone on Abimelech's head and crushed his skull."

## OUR \_\_\_\_\_ TO GOD'S EFFECTIVE AND UNIVERSAL CONTROL

### 1. This Teaching is \_\_\_\_\_

*When we look at creation, we know God is big, wise, and powerful. When we look at how God governs his creation he's bigger, wiser, and more powerful than we ever imagined. This is our God.*

### 2. This Teaching Puts \_\_\_\_\_ in His \_\_\_\_\_

**Genesis 3:19** says, "By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (cf. **Job 10:9**; **Ecc 3:20**)

**Genesis 18:27** says, "Abraham answered and said, 'Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes.'" (Even Kings are said to be dust, **1 Kings 16:2**.)

**Psalms 103:14–16** says, "For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. <sup>15</sup>As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; <sup>16</sup>for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more."

**Psalms 8:3–8** says, "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, <sup>4</sup>what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? <sup>5</sup>Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. <sup>6</sup>You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, <sup>7</sup>all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, <sup>8</sup>the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas."

**1 Corinthians 15:47–49** says, "The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup>As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup>Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven."

### 3. This Teaching Puts Man's \_\_\_\_\_ in its Place

### 4. This Teaching Invokes Reverent \_\_\_\_\_