

THE DOCTRINE OF GOD: THE GOD WHO UPHOLDS_(PART2)

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 UPHOLDS AND DIRECTS HUMAN HISTORY

1. God Upholds and Directs _____

Job 12:23 says, *"He makes nations great, and he destroys them; he enlarges nations, and leads them away."*

Psalms 22:28 says, *"For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations."*

Acts 17:26 says, *"And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place"*

Daniel 4:34–35 says, *"At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; ³⁵all 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?'"*

2. God Upholds _____

He Directs and Upholds Our _____

Ephesians 1:11 says, *"In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will"*

Psalms 65:4 says, *"Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple!"*

Romans 9:16, 18 says, *"So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy....¹⁸So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills"* (quoting **Exodus 33:19**).

1 Thessalonians 5:9 says, *"For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ"*

John 6:37 says, *"All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out."*

John 10:27–29 says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand."

Jude 24–25 says, "Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, ²⁵to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen." (see also **Romans 8:31–39**)

He Directs and Upholds Our _____

Philippians 2:12–13 says, "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."

He Directs and Upholds _____ About Our Lives

Matthew 10:29–31 says, "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows."

3. God Upholds Every Action of Every _____

Psalms 139:16 says, "Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them."

Job 14:5 says, "Since his days are determined, and the number of his months is with you, and you have appointed his limits that he cannot pass"

Acts 17:28 says, "In him we live and move and have our being"

Jeremiah 10:23 says, "I know, O Lord, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps."

Proverbs 20:24 says, "A man's steps are from the Lord; how then can man understand his way?"

Proverbs 16:9 says, "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps" (cf., **16:1**).

Psalms 75:6–7 says, "For not from the east or from the west and not from the wilderness comes lifting up, ⁷but it is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another."

1 Corinthians 4:7 says, "For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?"

Proverbs 21:1 says, "The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will" (cf., **Ezra 1:1; 6:22**).

Psalms 33:14–15 says, "From where he sits enthroned he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, ¹⁵he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds."

OBJECTION!

Fatalism means, that no matter what choice you make, your fate, your destiny, your appointed end will be the same.

Proverbs 16:9 says, "*The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps*"

Neither fatalism nor the idea that we are robots can be sustained because:

1. We are made in God's _____.
2. We are made _____.
3. We have been _____ by God.

Two main objections dealt with in **Romans 9:10–24**:

1. It's not _____.
2. Humans are not _____.

If you're theology doesn't naturally raise these objections, it's not a biblical theology.

IMPLICATIONS

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____ & Holiness

4. Providing Comfort in _____