

## Doctrine of Divine Ordination

1. The Hebrew word for “ordained” is *`asah* (aw-saw') meaning “to do” or “to make” often in the sense of making a decree. *'asah* is translated in a variety of ways.

- accomplish,
- advance,
- appoint,
- apt,
- be at,
- become,
- bear,
- bestow,
- bring forth,
- bruise,
- be busy,
- certainly,
- have the charge of,
- commit,
- deal (with),
- deck,
- displease,
- do, (ready) dress (-ed),
- (put in) execute (-ion),
- exercise, fashion,
- feast, [fighting-] man,
- finish,
- fit,
- fly,
- follow,
- fulfill,
- furnish,
- gather,
- get,
- go about,
- govern,
- grant,
- great,
- hinder,
- hold ([a feast]),
- indeed,
- be industrious,
- journey,
- keep,
- labour,

- maintain,
- make, be meet,
- observe,
- be occupied,
- offer,
- officer,
- pare,
- bring (come) to pass,
- perform,
- practice,
- prepare,
- procure,
- provide,
- put,
- requite,
- sacrifice,
- serve,
- set,
- shew,
- sin,
- spend,
- surely,
- take,
- thoroughly,
- trim,
- very,
- vex,
- be [warr-] ior,
- work (-man),
- yield,
- and use.

2. All that is and shall ever be has been, must be and will be ordained of God *for in Him we live, and move, and have our being* (Acts 17:28).

- God ordained the burnt offering. *Numbers 28:6 It is a continual burnt offering, which was ordained in mount Sinai for a sweet savour, a sacrifice made by fire unto the Lord.*
- God ordained the Feast of the New Moon. *Psalms 81:2 Take a psalm, and bring hither the timbrel, the pleasant harp with the psaltery. 3 Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day. 4 For this was a statute for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob. 5 This he ordained in Joseph for a testimony, when he went out through the land of Egypt: where I heard a language that I understood not.*

- God has ordained strength to come from weakness. *Psalms 8:2 Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.*
- God ordained the universe to be brought into existence, and it was done. *Psalms 8:3 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; 4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?*
- God has ordained that the elect shall always have spiritual light. *Psalms 132:17 There will I make the horn of David to bud: I have ordained a lamp for mine anointed.*
- God ordained the establishment of Tophet. *Isaiah 30:33 For Tophet is ordained of old; yea, for the king it is prepared; he hath made it deep and large: the pile thereof is fire and much wood; the breath of the Lord, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it.*

*Special Note.*

To'phet (place of burning), was in the southeast extremity of the "valley of the son of Hinnom," Jeremiah 7:31, which is "by the entry of the east gate." Tophet was probably the king's "music-grove" or garden, denoting originally nothing evil or hateful. Then it became the place of abomination, the very gate or pit of hell. The pious kings defiled it and threw down its altars and high places, pouring into it all the filth of the city, till it became the "*abhorrence*" of Jerusalem.

- God ordained Jeremiah to be a prophet. *Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.*
- God has ordained the discipline and destruction of nations. *Habakkuk 1:12 Art thou not from everlasting, O Lord my God, mine Holy One? We [the Jews] shall not die. O Lord, thou hast ordained them [the Chaldeans] for judgment; and, O mighty God, thou hast established them for correction.*
- God ordained that only a person who was a witness of the resurrection could be an apostle. *Acts 1:22 Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.*

- God has ordained that Jesus Christ alone will be the Judge of the living and the dead. *Acts 10:42 And he [God] commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he [Jesus Christ] which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. Acts 17:31 Because he [God] hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man [Jesus] whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him [Christ] from the dead.*
  - God ordained the moral law to be an instrument of life. *Romans 7:10 And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.*
  - God ordained that angels should attend as witnesses the promulgation of the law. *Galatians 3:19 Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.*
  - God has ordained a moral universe through government. There is to be a policeman on the street and a judge in a courtroom to dispense justice. *Romans 13: 13 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.*
  - God has ordained that ministers of the gospel should be supported by the same. *1 Corinthians 9:14 Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.*
  - God has ordained that Christians should perform good works. *Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*
  - God must ordain His ministers if they are to be effective, and so He does. *1 Timothy 2:7 Whereunto I [Paul] am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not ;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity. Hebrews 5:1 For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:*
  - God ordained the high priest to offer an acceptable sacrifice to Himself. *Hebrews 8:3 For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer. Hebrews 9:6 Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God.*
3. Because man has been made in the image of God, he can, within limits imitate God including exercising the ability to ordain certain events to come to pass.

- A king can ordain a feast to take place. *1 Kings 12:32 And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made. 33 So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense.*
- The apostles were able to ordain elders to guide the corporate life of the church. *Acts 14:23 And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed. Acts 16:4 And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem.*

4. What one man can ordain, another man can overrule.

- *2 Kings 23:5 And he [Josiah c. BC 623] put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven.*

1. Rulers can ordain events for good or evil.

- King Jeroboam ordained idolatry. *2 Chronicles 11:15 And he [Jeroboam, BC 974] ordained him priests for the high places, and for the devils, and for the calves which he had made.*
- King Nebuchadnezzar ordained murder. *Daniel 2:24 Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise men of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation.*
- King David and King Hezekiah ordained righteous acts. *2 Chronicles 23:18 Also Jehoiada appointed the offices of the house of the Lord by the hand of the priests the Levites, whom David had distributed in the house of the Lord, to offer the burnt offerings of the Lord, as it is written in the law of Moses, with rejoicing and with singing, as it was ordained by David. 2 Chronicles 29:27 And Hezekiah [c. BC 726] commanded to offer the burnt offering upon the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song of the Lord began also with the trumpets, and with the instruments ordained by David king of Israel.*

6. The general population within a nation can demand and ordain acts of spiritual righteousness to take place.

- *Esther 9:27 The Jews ordained, and took upon them, and upon their seed, and upon all such as joined themselves unto them, so as it should not fail, that they would keep these two days [the feast of Purim] according to their writing, and according to their appointed time every year;*

7. As God the Father has ordained things that shall come to pass, so God the Son has the power and authority to decree events.

- God the Son ordained the calling of the Twelve. *Mark 3:14 And he [Jesus] ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,*
- God the Son ordains those who are chosen for salvation and service. *John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*

8. The Doctrine of Divine Ordination touches directly on the salvation of individuals. Not all individuals have been ordained to eternal life, but those who have been ordained to eternal life will believe in Jesus Christ as personal Savior.

- *Acts 13:48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.*

9. As shocking as it is, certain individuals have been marked out for destruction.

- *Jude 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

10. The salvation of the elect was ordained by God before the foundation of the world.

- *1 Corinthians 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:*