

1 & 2 Samuel Series

Lesson #088

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Dean Bible Ministries

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THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S

DIVINE GUIDANCE—PART 2

1 Samuel 23:1–29

You have heard it said ...

- **That God has a perfect will for every decision in our lives**
- **That we should live in the “center” of God’s will**
- **That God reveals to us precisely what this will is**
- **And that one of the keys to discerning this will is an inner state of peace or tranquility when that decision is made.**

But I say to you ...

- **This is not biblical**
- **This is a form of mysticism**

The Doctrine of the Will of God

1. The term “will of God” describes three aspects of divine volition in relation to His creation. –Definitions

a. God's sovereign will with regard to His creation, where He brings to pass what He wills and what He has decreed.

- Decretive will of God
- Sovereign will of God
- Secret will of God
- Permissive will of God

We only know this after the fact.

b. God's moral will sometimes also called His revealed will: this refers to what God has revealed man is to do. This is also called God's desired will; part of this is God's operational will for the believer.

The Torah expressed God's will for Israel, not for the Gentiles.

God expressed His specific geographical will or specific operational will through special revelation.

c. God's specific will, functional, operational, or geographical will is always expressed through special revelation.

Judges 6:14, “Then the Lord turned to him and said, ‘Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?’

Judges 6:15, “So he said to Him, ‘O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.’

Judges 6:16, “And the Lord said to him, ‘Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.’ ”

Ezek. 4:1, “You also, son of man, take a clay tablet and lay it before you, and portray on it a city, Jerusalem.

Ezek. 4:2, “Lay siege against it, build a siege wall against it, and heap up a mound against it; set camps against it also, and place battering rams against it all around.

Ezek. 4:3, “Moreover take for yourself an iron plate, and set it as an iron wall between you and the city. Set your face against it, and it shall be besieged, and you shall lay siege against it. This will be a sign to the house of Israel.

Ezek. 4:4, “Lie also on your left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it. According to the number of the days that you lie on it, you shall bear their iniquity.”

Acts 10:3, “About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, ‘Cornelius!’

Acts 10:4, “And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, ‘What is it, lord?’ So he said to him, ‘Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.

Acts 10:5, “ ‘Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter.

Acts 10:6, “ ‘He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do.’ ”

d. God's overriding will.

When we make decisions contrary to God's sovereign will He prevents us from accomplishing those decisions.

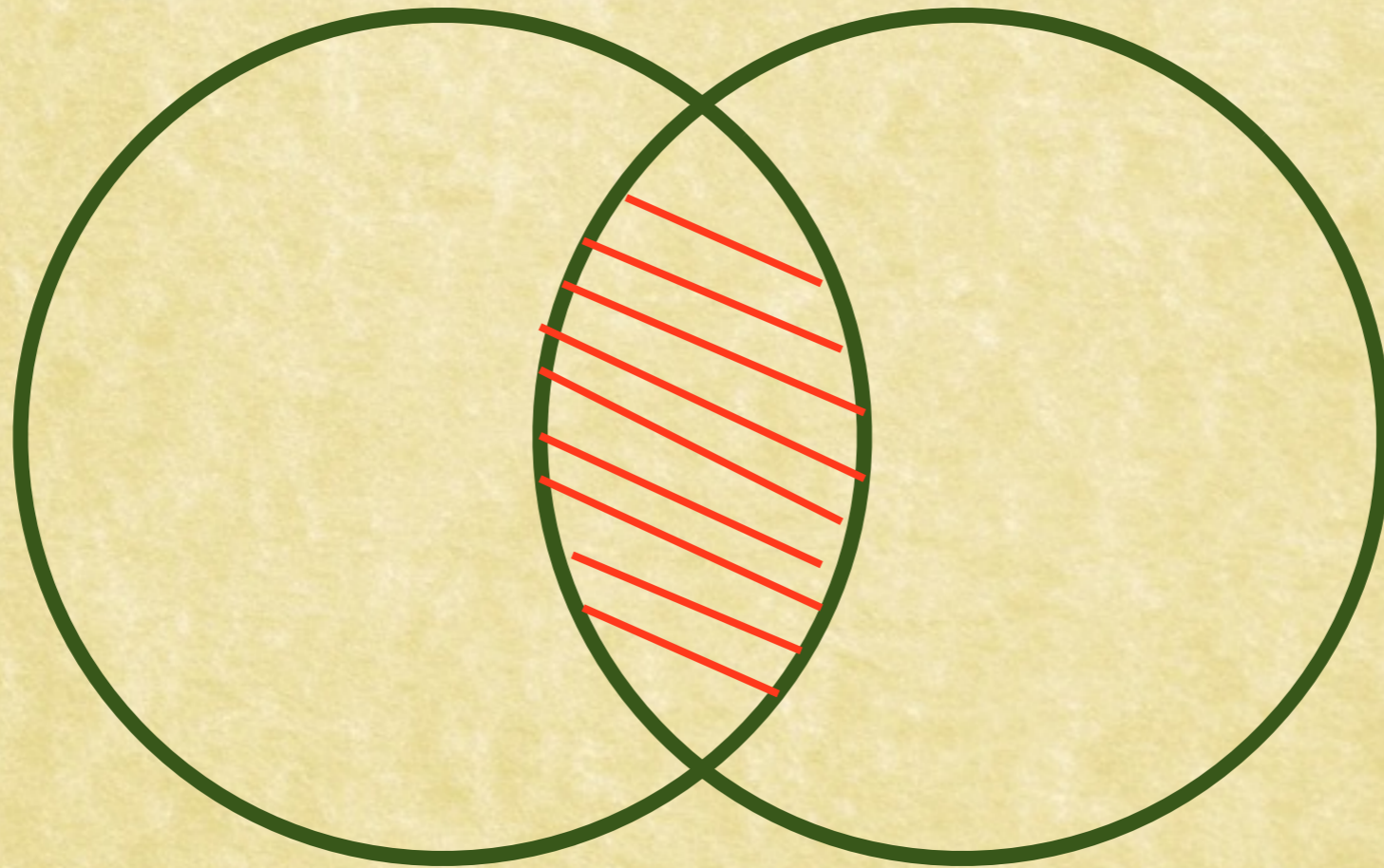
Example: Jonah

Prov. 3:5, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;

Prov. 3:6, “In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

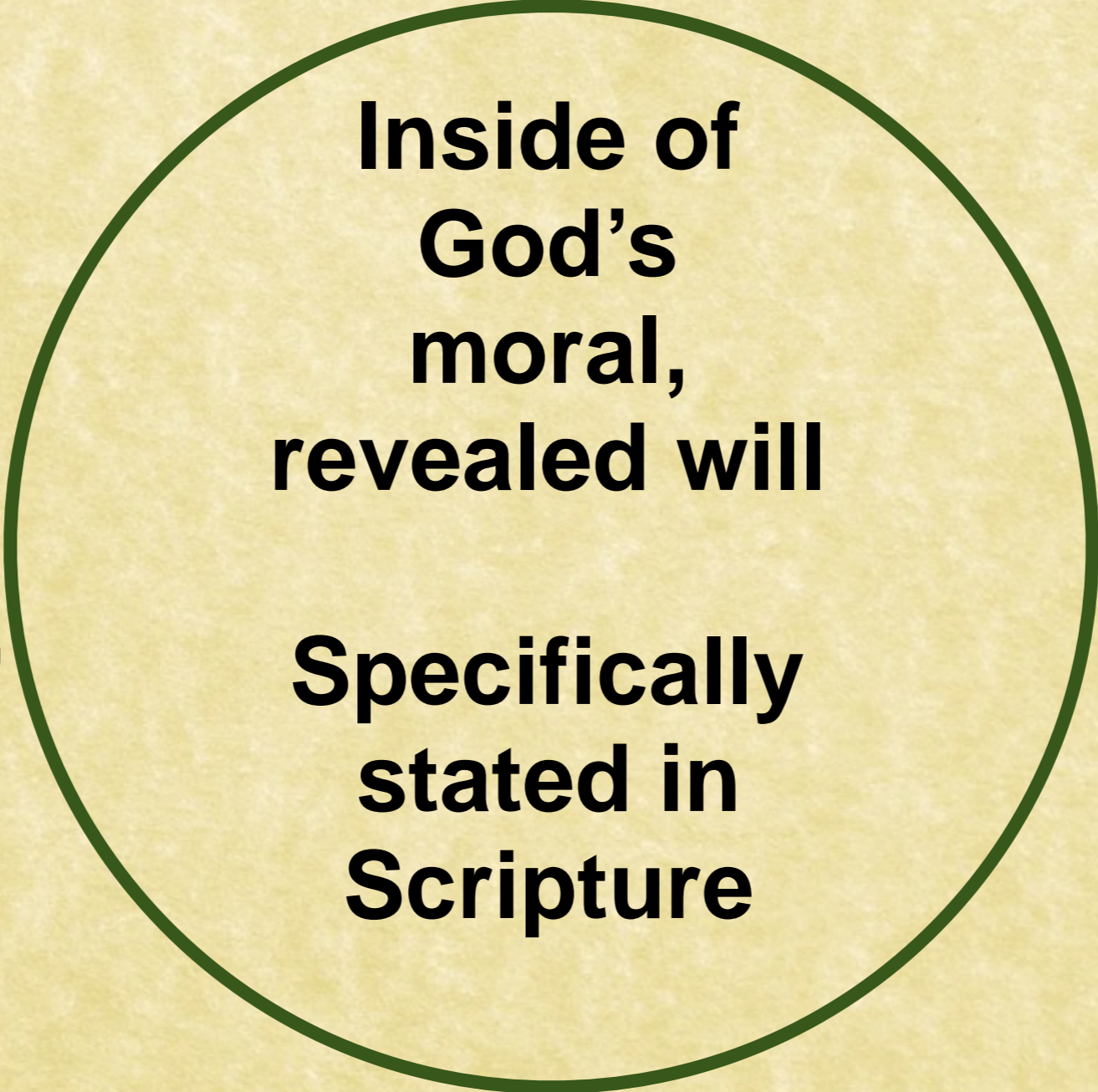
**God's Sovereign
Will**

**God's Moral/
Revealed Will**



God's Moral/ Revealed Will

**Boundaries
defined
by the
mandates,
imperatives,
prohibitions
in Scripture**



**Outside of
God's
moral,
revealed will**

2. Specific verses on God's sovereign will.

Dan. 4:35, “And all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but He does according to His will in the host of heaven, and among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, ‘What hast Thou done?’ ”

**Prov. 21:1, “The king’s heart is like
channels of water in the hand of the LORD;
He turns it wherever He wishes.”**

Rev. 4:1, “After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, ‘Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.’ ”

Eph. 1:11, “also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,”

Rom. 9:19, “You will say to me then, ‘Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?’ ”

3. The specifics of God's decreed/sovereign will are *secret, unrevealed, and unknown*. They cannot be known until *after the fact*. Human history once transpired is the outworking of God's sovereign plan.

God's sovereign will includes His permissive will, which allows for the actions of volitionally free, moral agents (you and me), to make decisions contrary to His revealed moral will.

God's Moral Will

Do not eat from the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Abraham, Go and leave your family behind.

Israelites to enter the land and destroy the Canaanites.

Do not murder.

God's Sovereign Will

Adam and Eve ate.

Abraham took his father and Lot along.

Israelites fear the Canaanites and fail to trust God.

The illegal execution of Jesus.

4. We can only know the specifics of God's revealed or moral will. This includes all the precepts, mandates, and prohibitions of the Scriptures.

In the New Testament there are 565 imperatives (including prohibitions). There are also other ways through imperatival participles and hortatory subjunctives to express mandates.

**Rom. 2:17, “Indeed you are called a Jew,
and rest on the law [*torah*], and make your
boast in God,**

**Rom. 2:18, “and [y’all] know His will, and
approve the things that are excellent,
[because you are] instructed out of the law
[*torah*],”**

**1 Thess. 5:18, “in everything give thanks;
for this is God’s will for you in Christ
Jesus.”**

**1 Thess. 4:3, “For this is the will of God,
your sanctification; that is, that you
abstain from sexual immorality;”**

2 Cor. 6:14, “Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?”

5. Therefore, God's sovereign will includes His moral will, but His moral will, "thou shalt not" clearly is not always His sovereign will.

The difference is His permissive will, what He allows, because He allows creatures the freedom to fail, to make bad choices.

When the creature does what God has prohibited, then he is operating in God's permissive will, but is disobedient to God's revealed will.

6. Usually we become concerned about the will of God in the midst of some momentous decision. However, God's will affects every decision we make to some degree, from what car to buy and what clothes to wear to what school to attend or how we perform our jobs.

7. If we are to do all things to the glory of God, then even the most minute decision demands attention, but not every decision necessarily involves either

a. a moral issue or,

b. a specific will of God in relation to geographical will or operational will.

8. Since we can only know the specifics of God's revealed or moral will before the fact, questions about the will of God relate only to REVEALED information.

Prov. 3:5, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

Prov. 3:6, “In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

9. Is there one and only one will for every decision or is the issue in many decisions, biblical wisdom for living?