

1 & 2 Samuel Series

Lesson #090

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Dean Bible Ministries

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THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S

DIVINE GUIDANCE – PART 4

1 Samuel 23:1–29

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.

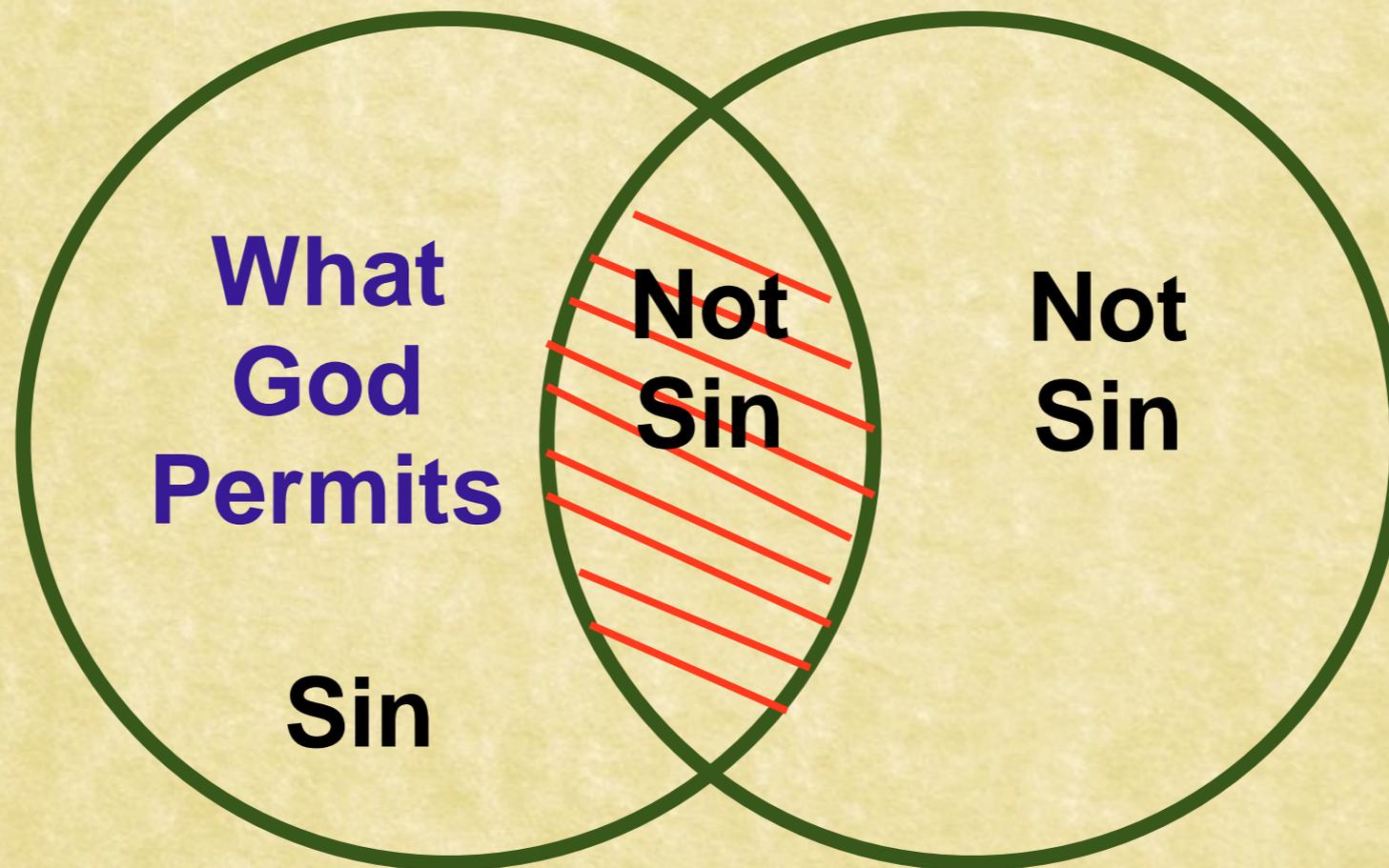
d. God's overriding will.

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

Example: Jonah

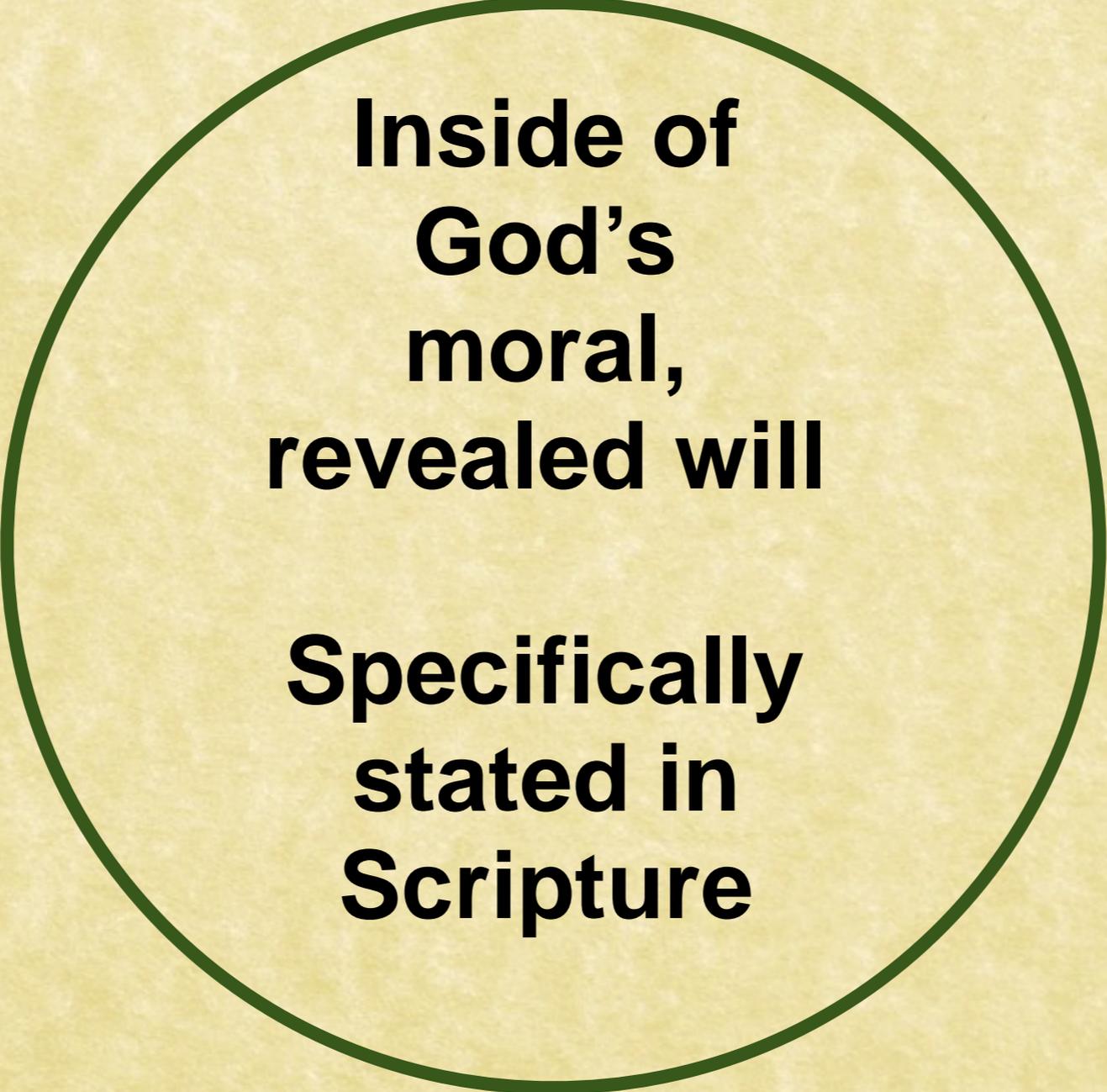
God's Sovereign Will

**God's Moral/
Revealed Will**



God's Moral/ Revealed Will

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



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

**Specifically
stated in
Scripture**

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

**11. As we learn doctrine and the Holy Spirit stores the doctrine in our soul—
RETENTION—then in decision making
the Holy Spirit is involved in retrieving
the information for application—
RECALL.**

12. Along with specific doctrine for specific situations there is also doctrine which produces WISDOM: These decisions involve WISDOM decisions. A wisdom decision is related to application of doctrine to a decision where the test is not the final decision but the decision-making process itself.

Stored doctrine gives us the discernment to recognize when some decisions *may* involve a distinct geographic or operational will from God.

13. The geographical will of God relates to operating in a specific location. Examples: Jonah in Nineveh, Paul in Rome.

14. The operational will of God includes both your spiritual gift and your natural talents and abilities.

15. Often, decisions in life are not related as much to the final decision as testing the process of deciding.

16. Numbers 22:12–26 reveals three categories of God's will.

**a. The revealed will of God:
Balaam do not go to Moab.
Num. 22:12**

**b. The permissive will of God:
Balaam was allowed to go to Moab,
Num. 22:20**

c. The overruling will of God.

Num. 23:5, 15, 26

**God did not allow Balaam to curse
Israel.**

Even if you make the wrong decision related to God's geographic will or operational will, His overriding will kicks in and resolves the problem.

**17. Decision making and wisdom.
Acts 15:6–22.**

Acts 15:36, “And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, ‘Let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.’ ”

Acts 20:16, “For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus in order that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.”

18. In every incident of a specific will of God it is known only through special revelation . . .

Through visions, the direct communication of the Holy Spirit, the audible voice of God, by direction of a prophet.

19. In some Old Testament cases, God directly put thoughts into the mind of a leader, cf., Neh. 2:2; 7:5. God put certain thoughts or ideas into the “heart,” i.e., the mind of Nehemiah.

20. Conclusion

What God wants us to know regarding His will, He has always revealed directly to those responsible.

God's will is completely, sufficiently, and finally revealed in His Word.

Therefore, God is no longer directly revealing His will to us independently of Scripture.

We are responsible therefore for knowing His will from Scripture and implementing it fully in our thinking and living.