

Judges Series

Lesson #60

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Wisdom Comes from the Word
Judges 6:31–35



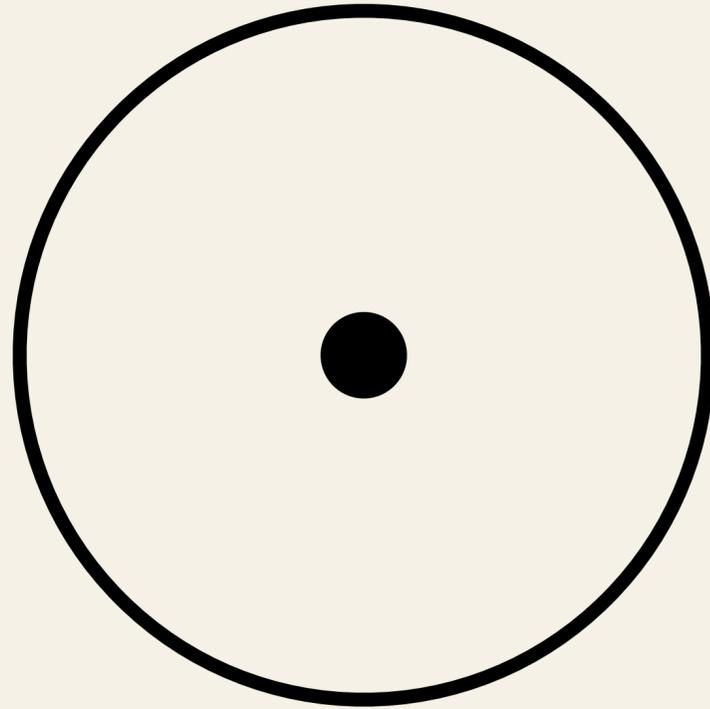
JUDGES

2021

When Chaos Was King

Misconceptions About God's Will

Living in the Center of God's Will



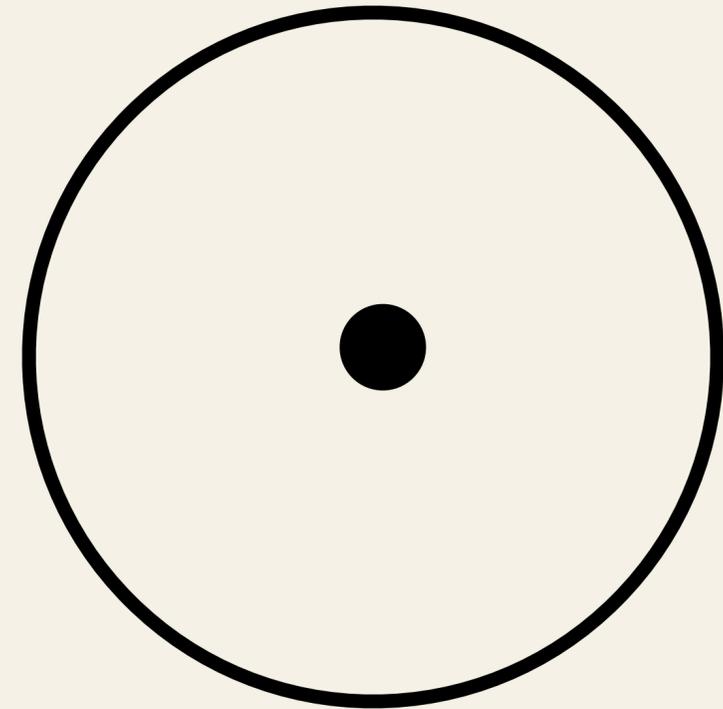
Living in the Center of God's Will

God has a specific will for how and what each believer thinks.

God always has a specific operational will for each believer.

God always has a specific geographical will for every believer.

God always has a specific will for every decision we make in life.



Clarifying the Terms

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

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: what God decreed would happen

Sovereign will of God: what God willed would happen

Secret will of God: not revealed, what God determined would happen

Permissive will of God: what God allows to happen

God's sovereign will included allowing or permitting sin, rebellion, and all that flows from that.

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.

The Torah expressed God's moral will for Israel. Some of it is His moral will which is also for all mankind. But the Law was Israel's national constitution.

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

Gen. 12:1, “Now the LORD had said to Abram: ‘Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you.’ ”

Ex. 3:10, “Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”

Josh. 1:2, “Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel.

Josh. 1:3, “Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses.”

Judg. 6:14, “Then the LORD turned to him and said, ‘Go in this might of yours, and you shall deliver Israel from the hand of the Midianites. I have sent you,’ ~RD

Judg. 6:15, “So he said to Him, ‘O my Lord, how can I deliver Israel? Look, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my family.’ ~RD

Judg. 6:16, “And the LORD said to him, ‘I will be with you, and you shall strike down the Midianite army as one man.’ ” ~RD

c. God's specific will, functional, operational, or geographical, is always expressed through special revelation or through His behind-the-scenes orchestration of events.

We cannot miss the geographical will of God, if there is one, i.e., Jonah.

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We cannot miss the geographical will of God, if there is one, i.e., Jonah.

Jonah 1:1, “Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,

Jonah 1:2, “ ‘Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.’ ”

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 specific geographical or operational will, He prevents us from accomplishing those decisions.

Example: Jonah

Jonah 2:10, "So the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

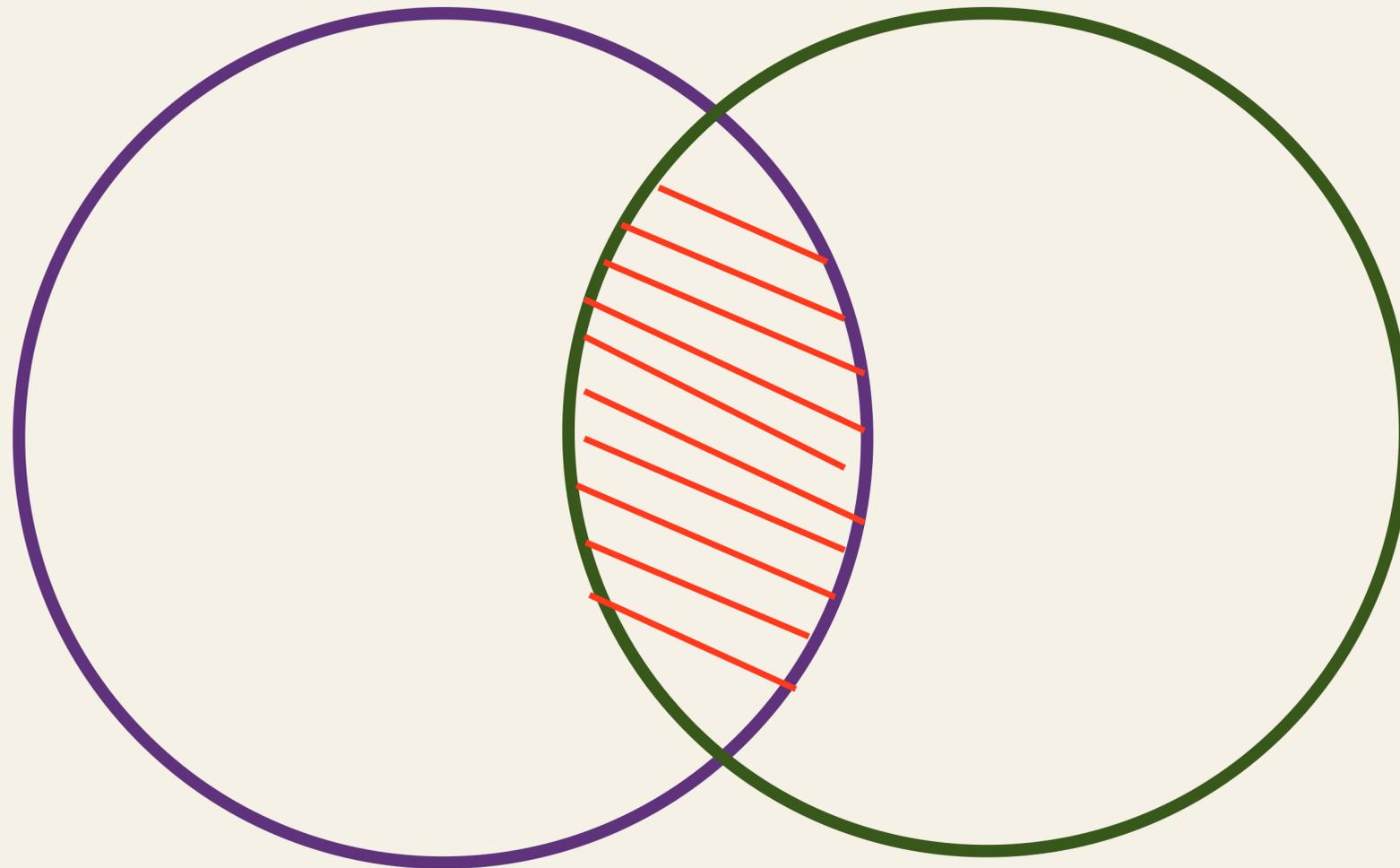
Jonah 3:1, "Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying,

Jonah 3:2, " 'Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you.'

Jonah 3:3, "So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD."

**God's Sovereign
Will
(unknown)**

**God's Moral/
Revealed Will
(known)**



God's Moral/Revealed Will

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



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

2. Key verses for 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?’ ”

2. Key verses for God's sovereign will

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

2. Key verses for God's sovereign will

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.’ ”

2. Key verses for God's sovereign will

Eph. 1:11, “In addition, it was through union with Him we were made His possession by His laying claim to us according to His purpose who works all these things according to the counsel of His will.” ~RD

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 decree.

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 sovereign will includes His permissive will for human beings to sin, cause horrible events, and make disastrous decisions. Yet God limits these consequences according to His omniscience and foreknowledge. Rom. 8:28

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 at least 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 decree.

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 His revealed will is outside His decreed will.

6. Usually we become concerned about the will of God in the midst of some momentous decision. However, God's [revealed] 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 almost all decisions demand some level of 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.

Why?

Because God is no longer giving revelation other than general revelation.

Special revelation has ceased!

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?

Examples of God's specific individual will

**NOTE: What God does in private He confirms objectively.
cf., 1 Sam. 10:1–9**