

1 & 2 Samuel Series

Lesson #089

April 25, 2017

Dean Bible Ministries

www.deanbibleministries.org

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THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S

DIVINE GUIDANCE – PART 3

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; inner feelings are mistakenly identified as the leading of the Spirit.**

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.

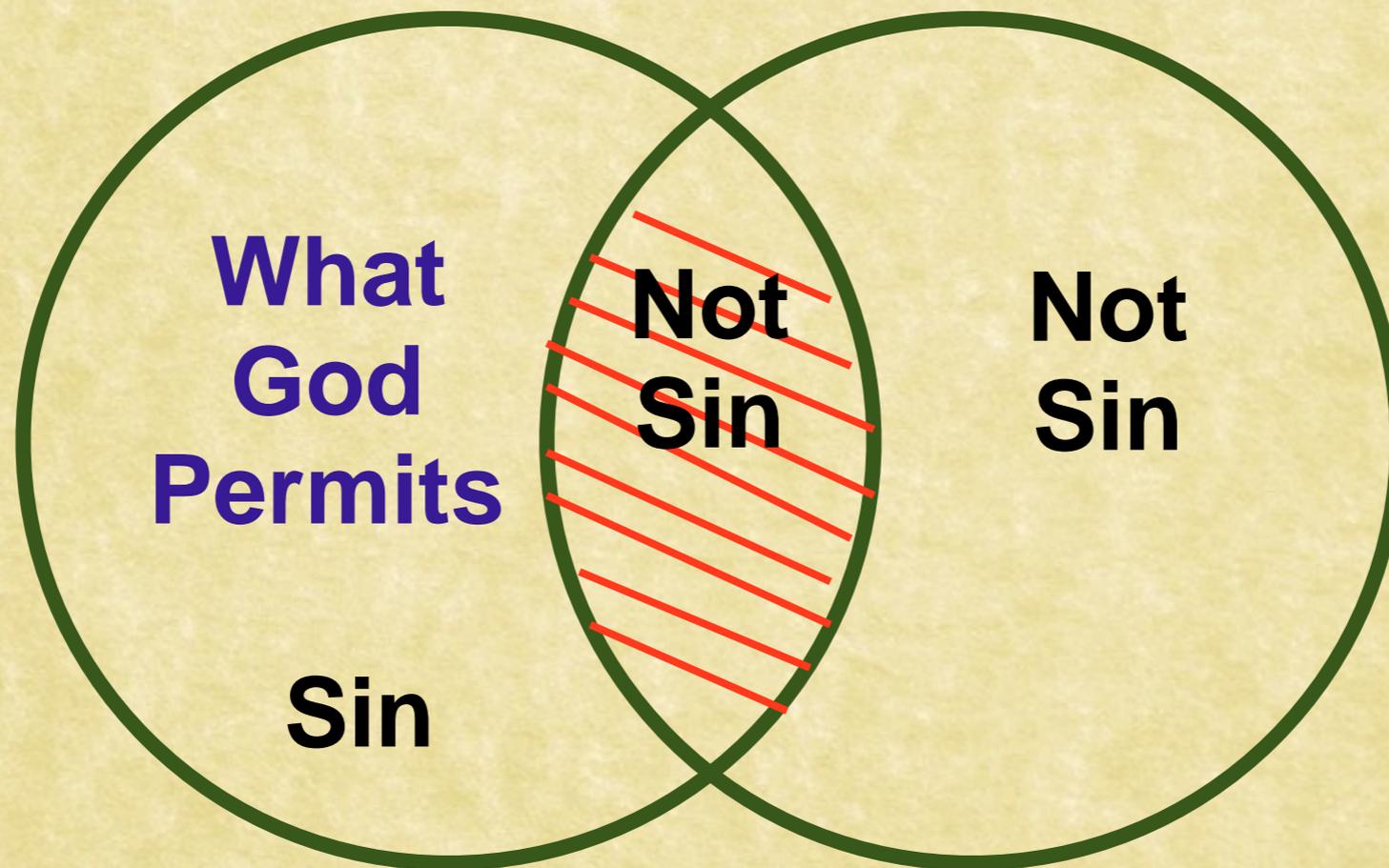
d. God's overriding will.

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

Example: Jonah

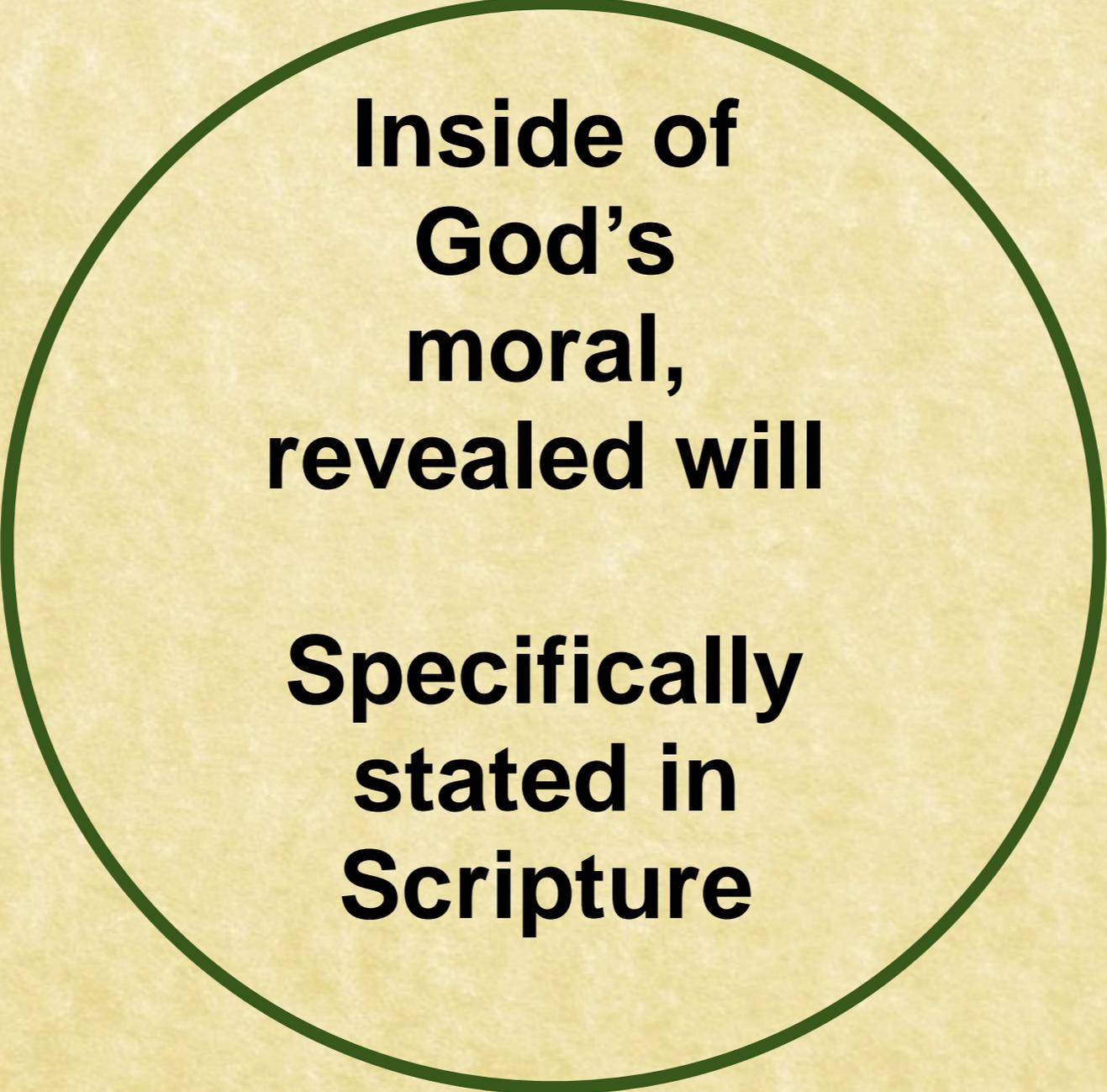
God's Sovereign Will

**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**

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?

Examples of God's specific individual will

NOTE: What God does in private He confirms objectively. cf., 1 Sam. 10:1–9 where Samuel's private anointing of Saul was confirmed through several external objective events. I.e., at Tabor, Saul would meet three men: one carrying three young goats, one carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a wineskin; later he met a group of prophets and praised God with them when the Spirit of the Lord came upon Him.

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

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

Jonah 1:3, “But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship which was going to Tarshish, paid the fare, and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.”



Tarshish

Nineveh

2500 miles

550 miles

Joppa



Tyre Sidon Caesarea Philippi

Capernaum Bethsaida

Nazareth Sea of Galilee

Caesarea

Samaria

Joppa

Jericho

Jerusalem

Hebron

Gaza

Dead Sea

Mediterranean

Jordan River

Acts 10:17, “Now while Peter was greatly perplexed in mind as to what the vision which he had seen might be, behold, the men who had been sent by Cornelius, having asked directions for Simon’s house, appeared at the gate;”



Acts 10:18, “and calling out, they were asking whether Simon, who was also called Peter, was staying there.”

Acts 10:19, “And while Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, ‘Behold, three men are looking for you.’ ”

Acts 10:20, “ ‘But arise, go downstairs, and accompany them without misgivings; for I have sent them Myself.’ ”

Acts 13:1, “Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

Acts 13:2, “And while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ ”

10. Knowing God's will is based on the knowledge of doctrine that has been assimilated in the soul, that God the Holy Spirit teaches us doctrine and through that He guides and leads us (Gal. 5:18).

Gal. 5:16, "I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Gal. 5:17, "For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

Gal. 5:18, "But if (1st) you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law."

Gal. 5:25, “If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”

στοιχέω *stoicheō*

pres act subj 1 plur

to walk, follow in the footsteps, follow in line with

Col. 4:12, “Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bondslave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured [having already been fully assured] in all the will of God.”

πληροφορέω *plērophoreō*

Verb perf perf pass part masc

plur nom

to assure fully, fully

persuaded

Rom. 12:2, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Eph. 5:17, “So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”

Eph. 6:6, “not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.”

Psa. 32:8, “I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.”