**Study Guide**

**The Doctrine of God**

**Module Four – God’s Plan and Works**

Instructions: Each study guide is divided into sections with time codes that correspond to the main categories covered in each module. Sections contain two main components: an **Outline for Taking Notes** and **Review Questions**. You should utilize the **Outline for Taking** **Notes** while you watch the video lectures, and then answer the **Review Questions** in preparation for the module quiz. For more information about best ways to utilize the study guides, refer back to the Student Orientation Manual. Also, be sure to save the study guides as they will be an excellent resource to prepare for this course’s Final Exam.

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**OUTLINE FOR TAKING NOTES on minutes 0:00 – 44:24**

Introduction

I. Plan of God

A. Biblical Perspectives

1. Divine Immanence

2. Divine Transcendence

B. Theological Propositions

1. Extreme Outlooks

2. Centrist Outlooks

**REVIEW QUESTIONS**

1. What theological term is used to refer to the fact that God condescends and fully engages his finite, temporal and changing creation?

2. Does the lesson teach that God sometimes makes historical plans that are meant to be open to change as He interacts with His creation?

3. What is God's "prescriptive will"?

4. Can God's prescriptive will be disobeyed by man?

5. Which aspect of God are we highlighting we say that He works out everything according to His will, and that His plan cannot be changed?

6. What is God's "decretive will"?

7. What name is given to the theology that explains everything in terms of God's transcendent plan, without taking into account that He also interacts with creation?

8. What name is given to the theology that explains everything in terms of God's immanence, affirming that God's plan depends entirely on history and the choices of spirits and human beings, without taking into account that He has an eternal, unfailing plan?

9. What name is given to the theology that maintains both that God has an eternal, unfailing plan for history, and that He also interacts with His creation regarding some plans that are limited in scope, temporal and changeable?

10. Identify each position according to its postulates.

God never interacts with creation.

God does not have an eternal unfailing plan for history.

God has an eternal unfailing plan, but also has "historical" plans that can "change."

11. What is the difference between God's "eternal plan" and His "historical plans"?

12. Describe each position regarding the order of the eternal decrees.

supralapsarianism

infralapsarianism

sublapsarianism

13. What do most evangelical theologians say about the debate over the order of the eternal decrees?

14. The discussion about the order of the eternal decrees is not about temporal sequence, but about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sequence.

15. What did Calvin say about the relation between God's foreknowledge and His decrees?

**OUTLINE FOR TAKING NOTES on minutes 44:24-1:32:10**

II. Works of God

A. Creation

1. Invisible Dimensions

2. Visible Dimensions

B. Providence

1. Importance of Second Causes

2. God and Second Causes

Conclusion

**REVIEW QUESTIONS**

1. What does it mean that God created all things "ex nihilo"?

2. Describe each religious view:

polytheism

pantheism

dualism

3. The primary biblical term for the invisible dimension of creation is \_\_\_\_\_\_.

4. What is in heaven?

5. Were all heavenly spirits first created good?

6. Since their fall into rebellion, can Satan and other evil spirits still participate in the heavenly court?

7. The Westminster Confession of Faith says, "Although, in relation to the foreknowledge and decree of God, the first Cause, all things come to pass immutably, and infallibly; yet, by the same providence, he ordereth them to fall out, according to the nature of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, either necessarily, freely, or contingently.

8. Describe the meaning of each term as used in the Westminster Confession of Faith regarding the way in which God may use second causes to work out His plan, and give an example of each.

"necessarily"

"freely"

"contingently"

9. According to the Westminster Confession of Faith, does God frequently use means to work out His plan?

10. What is "theodicy"?

11. What does the Bible say about whether God causes evil?

12. Describe the meaning of each phrase as it refers to the way God sometimes works out His plan.

without means

above means

against means