

28 July 2024 – Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group

“Nuts and Bolts” – 2 Kings 22:8 – 23:3

For reference: *Westminster Confession of Faith*, Chapter 5, Sections II and III

II. Although, in relation to the foreknowledge and decree of God, the first cause, all things come to pass immutably and infallibly;^h yet, by the same providence, he ordereth them to fall out, according to the nature of second causes, either necessarily, freely, or contingently.ⁱ

^h Acts 2:23 .

ⁱ Gen. 8:22; Jer. 31:35; Exod. 21:13 with Deut. 19:5; 1 Kings 22:28 ,34; Isa. 10:6,7.

III. God in his ordinary providence maketh use of means,^k yet is free to work without,^l above,^m and against them,ⁿ at his pleasure.

^k Acts 27:31,44; Isa. 55:10,11; Hos. 2:21,22.

^l Hos. 1:7; Matt. 4:4; Job 34:20.

^m Rom. 4:19-21.

ⁿ 2 Kings 6:6; Dan. 3:27.

1. God’s eternal decrees are _____, and He always has providential control of all things.
2. One of the ways in which God works out His immutable plan is through historical _____.
3. God never violates His immutable character, His covenant promises, or His eternal plan, and yet, within those _____, He is free to vary the way He works with His people.
4. Sometimes God _____ a threatened judgment or an offered blessing; sometimes He _____ or hurries a judgment or blessing.
5. Many times the prophets stated _____ to let the people know that God was _____ to use their choices as second causes to direct the course of history.
6. Unqualified predictions are simple statements about the future. No explicit _____ appear in them.
7. There are two primary ways in which Old Testament prophecies were confirmed. First, God indicated His higher determination with _____; second, He showed His intentions with _____.
8. “Instead of looking for how actions today fit within a _____ future, we should explore how actions today effect the future. In a word, we should be less concerned with foreknowledge of the future and more concerned with the _____ of the future.” (Quotation from Dr. Richard Pratt, whose lectures were a source for all these statements and for better understanding of God's sovereignty and providence)