

10. All things depend on God's will and nothing is certain apart from God's will. There comes a point in theology where God's will and the decree must be understood as synonymous.
11. To the finite mind, the principles of divine omniscience are countless, but to God they are all one plan, embracing both cause and effect, both means and end, therefore it is contained in one divine decree.
12. God's decree related to His plan includes His sovereign purposes which are efficacious, accomplished by God alone apart from creature ability, mentality, talent, function, and sacrifice.
13. Summation: In human history, the sovereignty of God and the free will of man coexist by divine decree. With these things in mind we now return to:

James 1:18 In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures. (NASB)

1. In our analysis of this verse so far we have observed that the word "will" is the aorist passive participle of **βούλομαι** (*boúlomai*) which refers to divine volition.
2. It refers to God's divine purpose in eternity past when He determined to provide salvation to those who would believe in Jesus Christ. This indicates divine cognizance of the spiritual birth of those who would believe in time.
3. *Boúlomai* refers to the divine decree which contains the totality of the will of God and in this case it includes divine knowledge of those who will believe during human history yet future.
4. The *will* of God refers to the *decree* of God and the passive voice should be translated, "Having been decreed in eternity past."
5. Further, an aorist participle precedes the action of the main verb which always has the indicative mood. That verb is the aorist active indicative of **ἀποκυέω** (*apokuéō*): "to give birth."
6. This does not refer to physical birth but rather to one's spiritual birth. This is indicated by the prefix **ἀπό** (*apó*) denoting origin or source which is the "Father of lights."

7. The divine decree is the origin or source of the spiritual birth. This refers to our regeneration, a technical word for salvation whereby eternal life is imputed to the believer through the agency of the Holy Spirit.
8. How is this accomplished? By the “word of truth,” a general term for Scripture but in this context it refers to spiritual birth occurring at the moment of “faith alone in Christ alone.”
9. In verse 17, we learned that divine grace comes down “from the ultimate source of the Father of lights.” The universe was created by God, first for the angelic population and then, secondly, for the human race.
10. The original creation of Genesis 1:1 was for the benefit of the elect angels. The fall of Lucifer and his fellow rebels resulted in the original trial during which all space-time, matter, and energy of the universe were suspended according to Genesis 1:2 and Isaiah 45:18.
11. Following Lucifer’s appeal, the universe was brought out of suspension and the earth was restored for habitation by the original Homo sapiens in a perfect environment.
12. When the original couple sinned they lost their perfect life, became dichotomous, and were in need of reconciliation. Faith in Christ resulted in their salvation and introduced, through procreation, the process of acquiring witnesses for the Prosecution to resolve the appeal. (Genesis 3)
13. James instructs us in James 1:15 that the sin nature’s lust pattern tempts a believer’s free will to commit a sin resulting in the delivery of a “child born dead,” i.e., personal sin results in loss of fellowship outside the bubble.
14. In verse 18, we again see the imagery of a birth in the phrase, “He brought us forth,” which is the aorist active indicative of the sentence’s main verb *apokuéō* meaning “spiritual birth.”
15. Here we see the new birth. Whereas an individual who was born physically alive but spiritually dead, is now born spiritually alive by means of the “word of truth,” i.e., the gospel of salvation.
16. The process which makes salvation possible was devised in eternity past by the “exercise of His will.” We have translated this phrase to emphasize the source of this exercise being God’s divine decree.