

In the supralapsarian view (except for one extreme form), the infralapsarian view, the Amyraldian view, and the sublapsarian view of the decrees of God, the answer to this question is that God precondemns men on the basis of their sin. However, this answer is not sufficiently precise. More specific answers to this question could include the following:

[1] God precondemns men on the basis of their foreseen rejection of Christ as He is revealed in Scripture and presented in the gospel.

Support for this view is found in such Scriptures as John 3:18 and 3:36.

John 3:18 -- "He who believes in Him [Christ] is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

John 3:36 -- "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

[2] God precondemns men on the basis of their foreseen sinful attitudes, thoughts, words, and actions.

Support for this view is found in such Scriptures as Matt. 12:37, Rom. 3:5-8, and 2 Cor. 3:7-9.

Matt. 12:37 -- "For by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned."

Rom. 3:5-8 -- "But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? The God who inflicts wrath is not unrighteous, is He? (I am speaking in human terms.) May it never be! For otherwise how will God judge the world? But if through my lie the truth of God abounded to His glory, why am I also still being judged a sinner? And why not say (as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say), 'Let us do evil that good may come?' Their condemnation is just."

2 Cor. 3:7-9 -- "But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was, how shall the ministry of the Spirit fall to be even more with glory? For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory."

[3] God precondemns men on the basis of their foreseen suppression, distortion, and perversion of the truth of general revelation.

Support for this view is found in such Scriptures as Rom. 1:18-20 - "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."