

# Acts 4:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

## Analysis

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The prayer acknowledges God's sovereignty: 'to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.' The Greek 'proorisen' (determined) indicates predestination - God's eternal decree includes evil actions (crucifixion, persecution) without causing moral guilt. This paradox - God's sovereign control and human responsibility coexisting - distinguishes Reformed theology. The phrase 'thy hand' (power) and 'thy counsel' (plan) emphasizes both capability and intention.

## Historical Context

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This theological affirmation echoed Peter's Pentecost sermon (Acts 2:23) - Christ's death was simultaneously murder (human guilt) and sacrifice (divine plan). Early church's ability to hold these truths in tension prevented both fatalism (denying human responsibility) and anxiety (doubting God's control).

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How do you hold together God's sovereignty over evil events with human moral accountability?
2. What comfort does God's predetermined plan provide when facing apparently chaotic persecution?

## Interlinear Text

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ποιῆσαι	ὅσα	ἡ	χείρ	σου	καὶ	ἡ	βουλή	σου
For to do	whatsoever	G3588	hand	thy	and	G3588	counsel	thy
G4160	G3745		G5495	G4675	G2532		G1012	G4675

προώρισεν	γενέσθαι
determined before	to be done
G4309	G1096

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 2:23** (Parallel theme): Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

**Isaiah 46:10** (Parallel theme): Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

**Genesis 50:20** (Parallel theme): But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

**Matthew 26:24** (Parallel theme): The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born.