

ORDO SALUTIS - The Order of Salvation

“And Jesus said unto him, ‘This day is salvation come to this house...’ ” (Luke 19:9)

“For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thess 5:9)

The phrase “ordo salutis” is a Latin Scholastic term that designates “the order of salvation,” as it appears in Scripture. This is the theological doctrine dealing with the logical sequencing of the covenant planning and application of benefits in the redemptive work of God, through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Sources:

Bible Version: King James Version (1769)
The Belgic Confession of Faith (1561)
The Heidelberg Catechism (1563)
The Second Helvetic Confession (1566)
The Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion (1571)
The Canons of Dordt (1618-1619)
Westminster Confession of Faith (1647)
Westminster Shorter Catechism (1647)
Westminster Larger Catechism (1648)

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The Decrees of God

Two Possible Views on the Order of Decrees:

Supralapsarian

1. Decree proposing the revelation of God's virtues in electing some and reprobating others
2. Decree to create those men elect and reprobate
3. Decree to permit them to Fall
4. Decree to provide Salvation through Jesus Christ for the elect, and condemn the reprobate.

(Ps. 115:3; Prov. 16:4; Is. 10:15; 45:9; Jer. 18:6; Matt. 20:15; Rom. 9:17, 19-21)

Infralapsarian

1. Decree to create men in holiness
2. Decree to permit them to Fall
3. Decree to Elect some and Reprobate others
4. Decree to provide Salvation through Jesus Christ for the elect, and condemn the reprobate

(Deut. 7:6-8; Matt. 12:25, 26; John 15:19; Rom. 9:15, 16; Eph. 1:4-12; 2 Tim. 1:9)

The Decrees of God are His eternal purpose, according to the Counsel of His Will, whereby, for His own glory, He has fore-ordained whatsoever comes to pass.

Romans 9:11, 13, 16, 18; 11:33; Ephesians 1:11

Confessions and Catechisms

- *Canons of Dordt, Head 1, Article 6*
- *Westminster Confession of Faith, 3:1-8*
- *Westminster Larger Catechism, Question 12-14*
- *Westminster Shorter Catechism Ques. 7-8*
- *Belgic Confession of Faith, Article 13*

Predestination

*The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.
(Ps. 103:19)*

Predestination is the eternal decree of God, by which He has decided by His good pleasure alone what is to become of each and every individual person in relation to salvation or damnation.

Eph. 1:4-5, 9, 11; Rom. 8:28-30, 9:11, 13, 15-16; 2 Tim. 1:9; 1 Thess. 5:9; 2 Thess. 2:12-13

Confessions and Catechisms

- *Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion: Article 17*
- *Westminster Confession of Faith: 3:5-8*
- *Second Helvetic Confession: Chapter 10, Article 1-9*

Election

*They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
(Is. 65:22)*

Election is the unchangeable purpose of God, where before the foundation of the world, He has out of mere grace, according to the sovereign good pleasure of His own will, chosen from the whole human race, a certain number of persons to redemption in Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 45:4; Romans 9:11-13; 11:5-28; 1 Thessalonians 1:4; 2 Peter 1:10; Ephesians 1:22; 2:6-8; Colossians 3:12

Confessions and Catechisms

- *Canons of Dordt, Head 1, Article 7*
- *Westminster Confession of Faith, 7:1-6*
- *Westminster Larger Catechism, Ques. 66*
- *Belgic Confession of Faith, Article 16*
- *Heidelberg Catechism, Ques. 54*

The opposite of Election is Reprobation: The rest of mankind God was pleased to pass by; and to ordain them to wrath for their sin, to the praise of his glorious justice.

Mat. 11:25-26; Rom. 9:17-22; Jude 1:4; 1 Pet. 2:8; 2 Tim. 2:19-20

Outward Call

Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. (Jonah 3:2)

Men are dead in sin [Ephesians 2:1-3](#)

The outward call is the indiscriminate preaching of the Gospel in the Word of God proclaiming the benefits of Christ to sinners, where He calls and commands men to believe, have faith, repent, and turn from their sin to Him for salvation.

[Matt. 3:1; 4:23; 2 Cor. 2:16; Titus 1:3](#)

Confessions and Catechisms

- *Belgic Confession of Faith, Article 14*
- *Canons of Dordt, Heads III & IV, Articles 8, 9, Rejection 5*
- *Westminster Confession of Faith, 10:4, 16:7*
- *Westminster Larger Catechism, Ques. 60, 68*

The Effectual (Inward) Call

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. (Eze. 36:26)

Effectual Calling, Regeneration, or the New Birth, is the work of God's Spirit, whereby changing our hearts, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he persuades and enables us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the Gospel.

Confessions and Catechisms

- *Canons of Dordt, Heads III & IV, Articles 6, 10-13, 15-16*
- *Canons of Dordt, Heads III & IV, Rejections 6-9*
- *Westminster Confession of Faith, 10:1-3, 16:7*
- *Westminster Larger Catechism, Ques. 58-59, 66-68 WSC, Ques. 29-32*

Saving Faith

And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him. (Jn. 9:38)

Saving faith is a sure knowledge and hearty trust of all that God has revealed to us in His Word, which the Holy Spirit works in us by the Gospel, where forgiveness of sins, everlasting righteousness, and salvation are freely given by God, merely of grace, only for the sake of Christ's merits.

[Psalm 19:7-10](#); [Acts 20:21](#); [13:48](#); [16:14](#); [18:27](#); [24:12](#); [Eph. 2:8-9](#); [Phil. 1:29](#); [James 2:14](#)

Confessions and Catechisms

- *Canons of Dordt, Head V, Article 7*
- *Heidelberg Catechism, Ques. 2, 81, 87-90*
- *Westminster Confession of Faith, 15:2-6*
- *Westminster Larger Catechism, Ques. 76*
- *Westminster Shorter Catechism, Ques. 87*
- *Second Helvetic Confession, Article 14:1-4, 7*

Repentance

Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.(Job 42:6)

True Repentance is a saving grace, fashioned in the heart of a sinner by the Spirit and word of God, where out of the sight and sense of the danger, filthiness and odiousness of his sins, and on the apprehension of God's mercy in Christ, he grieves for and hates his sins, so that he turns from them all to God, purposing constantly to walk with him in all the ways of new obedience.

[Job 42:6](#); [Acts 11:18](#); [2 Corinthians 7:10-11](#); [Hebrews 6:6](#); [2 Peter 3:9](#)

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- *Heidelberg Catechism, Ques. 2, 81, 87-90*
- *Westminster Confession of Faith, 15:2-6*
- *Westminster Larger Catechism, Ques. 76*
- *Westminster Shorter Catechism, Ques. 87*
- *Second Helvetic Confession, Article 14:1-4, 7*

Justification

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. (Ro. 1:17)

Justification is both virtual and actual. It is virtual, completed in Christ's work on the cross on behalf of his elect, (John 19:30), and it is actual, at a specific point in time during the conversion of a sinner in any time period.

Justification is an act of God's free grace, where He pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in His sight by a legal declaration, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

Deut. 25:1; Luke 18:14; Acts 10:43; Rom. 3:21; 2:13; 3:26-28; 4:5-8; 5:1-2; 5:8-18; 8:30; Gal. 2:16-17; 3:11; 2 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:9; Titus 3:7

Confessions and Catechisms

Canons of Dordt, Head II, Article 3, Rejection 4
Heidelberg Catechism, Questions 1, 37-39, 45, 56
Westminster Confession of Faith, 11:1-6
Westminster Larger Catechism, Ques. 69-71
Westminster Shorter Catechism, Ques. 33
Belgic Confession of Faith, Article 23

Adoption

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: (Jn. 1:12)

Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, (Ep. 1:5)

Adoption is an act of God's free grace, where we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges of the Sons of God.

Romans 8:15-17, 23-25; Galatians 4:1-5; John 1:12-13; John 8:40-59; 1 John 3:1-2; Ephesians 1:5

Confessions and Catechisms

Canons of Dordt, Head V, Article 6
Heidelberg Catechism, Ques. 33
Westminster Confession of Faith, 12:1; WLC, Ques. 74
Westminster Shorter Catechism, Ques. 34

Sanctification

For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: (1Th. 4:3)

Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, where we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die to sin, and live righteously.

[Lev. 11:44](#); [19:2](#); [Matt. 5-7](#); [Rom. 13:11-14](#); [Eph. 5:8](#); [Phil. 2:12-13](#); [1 Cor. 13](#); [Gal. 5:16-23](#); [1 Peter 1:15-16](#); [2 Peter 1:1-10](#); [3:18](#)

Confessions and Catechisms

Canons of Dordt, Head I, Article 13; Head 5, Article 13

Heidelberg Catechism, Questions 32, 43, 76, 86, 115, 122, 124

Westminster Confession of Faith, 13:1-3; WLC, Ques. 75, 77-78; WSC, Ques. 35

Belgic Confession of Faith, Article 24

Death

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. (Ge. 2:17)

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: (He. 9:27)

Glorification

Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. (Ro. 8:30)

Glorification is the work of God's free grace, where the elect alone shall be received into heaven, where they shall be fully and forever freed from all sin and misery, and filled with inconceivable joys, made perfectly holy and happy both in body and soul.

[1 Thess. 4:17](#); [Matt. 10:32](#), [25:33](#); [1 Cor. 6:2-3](#); [Matt. 25:34](#), [46](#); [Eph. 5:27](#); [Rev. 14:13](#); [Psalm 16:11](#); [Heb. 12:22-23](#); [1 John 3:2](#); [1 Cor. 13:12](#); [15:42](#); [1 Thess. 4:17-18](#); [2 Corinthians 5:1-8](#); [Phil 1:23](#); [3:20-21](#); [Revelation 21:4-5](#)

Confessions and Catechisms

Canons of Dordt, Head II, Article 3; Rejection 4

Heidelberg Catechism, Ques. 57

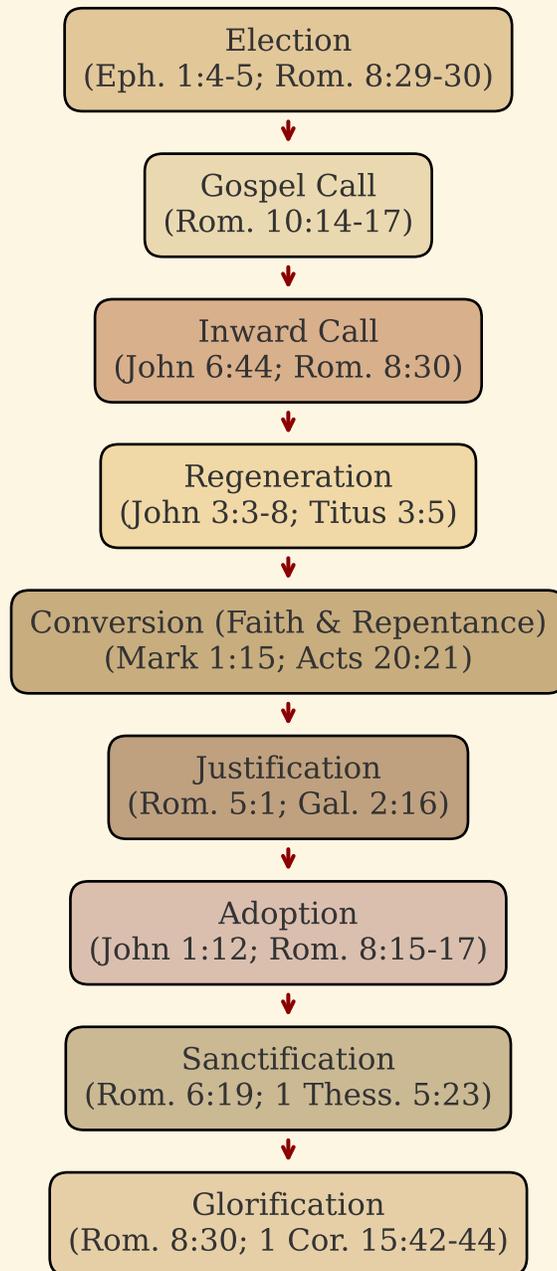
Westminster Confession of Faith, 32:1-3; WLC, Q. 84-89; WSC, Q. 38

Belgic Confession of Faith, Article 37

The Order of Salvation in the Reformed View (Ordo Salutis)

Election/ Predestination	This is the foundation of salvation, referring to God's eternal choice of individuals for salvation in Christ, based entirely on His grace and purpose, not human merit.	Ephesians 1:4-5 Rom 8:2-30
Gospel Call	The outward proclamation of the gospel to all, calling sinners to repentance and faith in Christ.	Romans 10:14-17 1 Cor 1:23
Inward Call	The work of the Holy Spirit in effectively calling the elect, drawing them to Christ in a way that infallibly leads to salvation.	1 Cor 1:24 Rom, 8:30
Regeneration	The Spirit's sovereign work of renewing the heart, enabling the sinner to respond in faith and repentance. Regeneration brings the individual into spiritual life and union with Christ.	John 3:3-8 Titus 3:5 John 6:63, 65
Conversion (Faith and Repentance)	The sinner, now regenerated, responds to the gospel by trusting in Christ (faith) and turning away from sin (repentance). These are distinct but inseparable aspects of conversion and are both gifts of grace	Mark 1:15 Acts 20:21 Eph 2:8-9
Justification	The legal declaration of righteousness, based on Christ's imputed righteousness, wherein the believer is pardoned and accepted as righteous in God's sight.	Romans 5:1; Galatians 2:16
Adoption	God receives us into His family as beloved sons and daughters. Adoption grants us full rights and privileges of God's household. salvation is not only about pardon but also about belonging.	John 1:12; Romans 8:15-17; Galatians 4:4-7
Sanctification	The ongoing work of the Spirit in making the believer holy, progressively conforming them to the image of Christ.	(Romans 6:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:2
Glorification	The final stage of salvation, where the believer is fully conformed to the image of Christ and dwells, eternally in the presence of God.	Rom. 8:30 1 Cor. 15:42-

□ The Order of Salvation □ (Ordo Salutis)



This chart represents the Reformed understanding of the ordo salutis — the order by which God applies salvation, grounded in union with Christ.
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The Order of Salvation (Ordo Salutis)

Grouped by Theological Categories: God's Purpose, the Spirit's Application, and Final Consummation

Category	Step	Scripture
God's Eternal Purpose	Election	Eph. 1:4-5; Rom. 8:29-30
The Spirit's Application	Gospel Call	Rom. 10:14-17
The Spirit's Application	Inward Call	John 6:44; Rom. 8:30
The Spirit's Application	Regeneration	John 3:3-8; Titus 3:5
The Spirit's Application	Conversion (Faith & Repentance)	Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21
The Spirit's Application	Justification	Rom. 5:1; Gal. 2:16
The Spirit's Application	Adoption & Sanctification	Rom. 8:15-17; Gal. 4:4-7; 1 Thess. 5:23
The Final Consummation	Glorification	Rom. 8:30; 1 Cor. 15:42-44

Note: Atonement is not a step in the ordo salutis, but the accomplished work of Christ upon which all these blessings rest.