

Biblical Notes – Luke 7:30

30 – But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose for themselves, not having been baptized by John. (30. οἱ δὲ Φαρισαῖοι καὶ οἱ νομικοὶ τὴν βουλήν τοῦ θεοῦ ἡθέτησαν εἰς ἑαυτοὺς μὴ βαπτισθέντες ὑπ' αὐτοῦ)

“...they despised the command of God: that is, the ordinance of baptism, which was of God, and the produce of his counsel and wisdom, as the whole scheme, and all the ordinances of the Gospel are, and not the invention of men: or they rejected this “in themselves”, as it may be rendered, and is by the Syriac and Persic versions; not openly and publicly, for they were afraid of the people, but inwardly and privately, and which their actions and conduct declared.”

—— John Gill, John Gill's Commentary, Commentary on Luke 7:30.

“Rejected for themselves (ἡτέτησαν εἰς ἑαυτοὺς — ēthetēsan eis heautous). The first aorist active of ἀτετέω — atheteō first seen in lxx and Polybius. Occurs in the papyri. These legalistic interpreters of the law refused to admit the need of confession of sin on their part and so set aside the baptism of John.”

—— A.T. Robertson, Robertson's Word Pictures in the New Testament, Commentary on Luke 7:30.

“Rejected (ἡθέτησαν) Set aside, or annulled; made it vain through their disobedience.”

—— Vincent's Word Studies, Commentary on Luke 7:30.

“Despised the counsel of God within themselves. The counsel of God is mentioned by way of respect, as contrasted with the wicked pride of the scribes; for the term counsel carries along with it a dignity, which protects the doctrine of God against the contempt of men. Literally, Luke says, that they despised Against Themselves : and indeed I do not disapprove of the meaning which is preferred by some, that the scribes were rebellious to their own destruction. But as Luke's narrative is simple, and as the preposition εἰς is often used in the sense of ἐν I have chosen rather to translate it, within themselves; as meaning, that although they did not openly and expressly contradict, yet as they inwardly swelled with hidden pride, they despised within themselves.”

—— Calvin's Commentary on the Bible, Commentary on Luke 7:30.

“Rejected the counsel of God against themselves,— Rejected the divine offers made to them,—or, despised within themselves the purpose of God.”

—— Thomas Coke, Thomas Coke Commentary on the Holy Bible, Commentary on Luke 7:30.

“Rejected the counsel of God against themselves.— The English is unhappily ambiguous, admitting the construction that the counsel which the Pharisees rejected had been “against” them. Better, as in Galatians 2:21, frustrated for themselves the counsel of God.”

—— Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers, Commentary on Luke 7:30.

Literally nothing in here talks about God failing or his plan being thwarted. If you think some men thwarted God you have a very low view of God...

Psalm 115:3 NASB

But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.

Psalm 135:6 NASB

Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps.

Psalm 139:16 NASB

Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them.

Proverbs 16:4 NASB

The LORD has made everything for its own purpose, Even the wicked for the day of evil.

Proverbs 20:24 NASB

Man's steps are ordained by the LORD, How then can man understand his way?

Job 9:12 NASB

"Were He to snatch away, who could restrain Him? Who could say to Him, 'What are You doing?'"

Job 14:5 NASB

"Since his days are determined, The number of his months is with You; And his limits You have set so that he cannot pass.

Job 20:29 NASB

"This is the wicked man's portion from God, Even the heritage decreed to him by God."

Job 42:2 NASB

"I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.

Lamentations 3:37-38 NASB

Who is there who speaks and it comes to pass, Unless the Lord has commanded it? [38] Is it not from the mouth of the Most High That both good and ill go forth?

Isaiah 43:13 NASB

"Even from eternity I am He, And there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?"

Isaiah 45:12 NASB

"It is I who made the earth, and created man upon it. I stretched out the heavens with My hands And I ordained all their host.

Isaiah 46:8-11 NASB

"Remember this, and be assured; Recall it to mind, you transgressors. [9] "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, [10] Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure' [11] Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it.

Daniel 4:25-26,28,34-37 NASB

that you be driven away from mankind and your dwelling place be with the beasts of the field, and you be given grass to eat like cattle and be drenched with the dew of heaven; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes. [26] And in that it was commanded to leave the stump with the roots of the tree, your kingdom will be assured to you after you recognize that it is Heaven that rules. [28] "All this happened to Nebuchadnezzar the king. [34] "But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom endures from generation to generation. [35] "All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, 'What have You done?' [36] At that time my reason returned to me. And my majesty and splendor were restored to me for the glory of my kingdom, and my counselors and my nobles began seeking me out; so I was reestablished in my sovereignty, and surpassing greatness was added to me. [37] Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride."