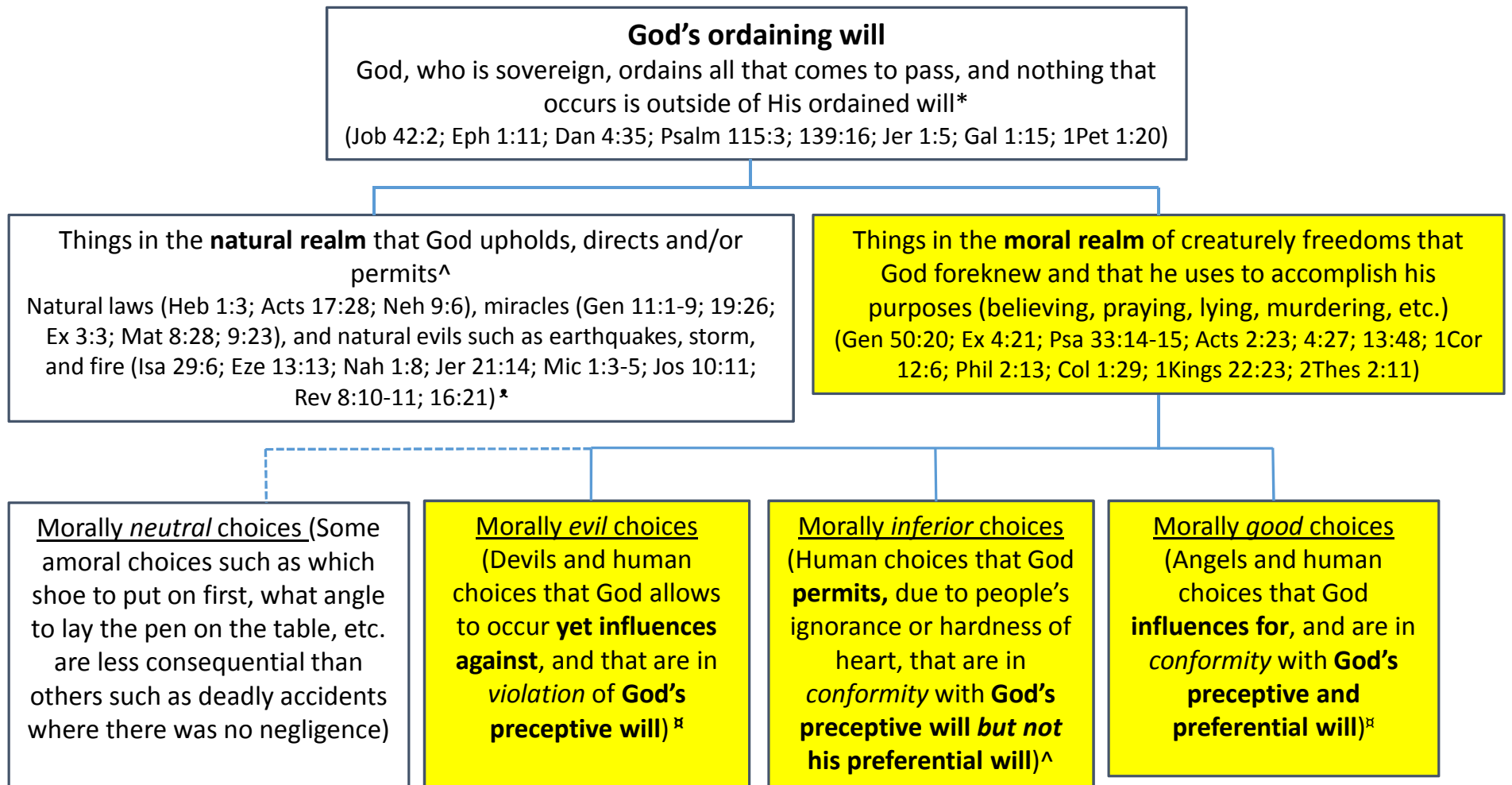


The Will of God



1. Highlighted blocks involve moral agency
2. *God's ordaining will does not always entail necessity. With contingent and free actions, "ordain" means to set in motion the chain of events that God knows will lead to them. To fail to make this distinction would make God the author of sin. Robert Picirilli's *Grace, Faith, and Free Will*, p. 46. God's ordaining of a thing can be in his allowing it, since he could have prevented it.
<http://studies.travischols.com/Certainty and Necessity.pdf>
3. **God's providence** is another term that speaks of his superintendence of all things, guiding them toward their divinely ordained end. This includes the arranging of natural laws to fulfill his purposes (as opposed to miracles which are a suspension of the normal, natural laws).
4. ^God's allowance of his creatures to make morally inferior choices (Acts 17:30; Matt 19:8) and even morally evil choices which bring God's judgment, as well as God's allowance of natural evils, is sometimes referred to as **God's permissive will**.
5. ‡**God's preceptive will** (Psalm 119; 1Jn 5:3) and/or **preferential/dispositional will** (Ezek 33:11; 1Tim 2:4; Rom 12:2) are sometimes referred to as **God's perfect will**, and can be reflected in the lives of his people—which is the highest good and the end toward which we were all created.