

God Is Sovereign Over All Things

Selected Scriptures



I. What is Providence?

- Thomas Watson: "God's ordering all issues and events of every thing after the counsel of His own will, to His own glory."
- Berkhof: "that continued exercise of the divine energy, whereby the Creator preserves all His creatures, is operative in all that comes to pass in the world, and directs all things to their appointed ends."
- **1)** God preserves all things He created.
- **2)** God governs all things to ensure that the purposes for which He created them are accomplished.

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II. Why is Providence Necessary?

- A. Because of God's Absolute Sovereignty
- B. Because of God's Eternal Plan

III. What Does God's Providence Control?

- A. The Physical World (earth and animal creation)
- B. The Affairs of Nations
- C. Things that Seem Accidental or Insignificant
- D. The Lives of Individuals
 - 1) Our Birth and Life Circumstances
 - 2) Our Outward Successes and Failures
 - 3) Our Free Actions, Decisions, and Choices
 - 4) Our Sinful Acts

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4) Our Sinful Acts

- Some basic biblical propositions:
 - God is not the source of evil (Is. 6:3).
 - God does not tempt man to do evil (Jam. 1:13).
 - God does not force man do evil (Jam. 1:14-15).
 - God does not exempt man from responsibility (Ex. 34:7).

4) Our Sinful Acts

- a) God prevents sin.
- b) God permits sin—He permits people to cherish and manifest their evil disposition.
- c) God limits sin – He determines the bounds reached by sinful actions and the extent of their effects.
- d) God directs sin – He directs evil acts to an end unforeseen and unintended by sinner.

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 - 5) The Day and Circumstances of our Death

How not to use your knowledge of providence...

- As an excuse for sin (1 Cor. 10:13).
- As an excuse to neglect your responsibilities.
- As a guide.
- As a spiritual diagnostic tool.

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How to use your knowledge of providence...

1. Submit to God's providence (1 Pet. 5:6).
2. Don't assume your desires or plans are part of God's sovereign plan (Jam. 4:13-15).
3. Trust His providence (Rom. 8:28).
4. Don't fear the future (Ps. 91:1-6).
5. Be deeply grateful (1 Th. 5:18).