

SHARPENING YOUR SWORD
THE DOCTRINE OF THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD

Session 13 — Apr 26, 2023

REVIEW

THE BIG PICTURE

Providence is the belief that God, in His goodness and power, preserves, accompanies, upholds, directs, and governs all creatures, all actions, and all things, from the largest star in the galaxy to the smallest sparrow in a tree. God the Creator and King governs all to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy.

OBJECTIVES FOR THIS SESSION

- 1) To increase our trust in God by understanding His control over all things.
- 2) To be able to understand the providence of God is behind both good and bad things that happen.
- 3) To be able to understand that even what we perceive to be a bad providence can still work to God's glory in the end.

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for the good of those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

Romans 8:28

THE DOCTRINE OF GOD'S TRIUNITY (Three-in-Oneness)

We see throughout the Bible the teaching that God is the one who gives life, renews, sees, watches over, observes, saves, protects, preserves, leads, teaches, rules, works, upholds, and cares, for all His creation, and especially for all His people. We will look into the providence of God under these three headings:

- 1) **Preservation**, “God keeps all created things existing and maintaining the properties with which He created them.”
- 2) **Concurrence**, “God cooperates with created things in every action, directing their distinctive properties to cause them to act as they do.”
- 3) **Government**, “God has a purpose in all that He does in the world and He providentially governs or directs all things in order that they accomplish His purposes.” (all above quotes from Grudem)

Here are some questions to prepare us for the lesson on God's Providence...

1. In Blue Letter Bible look up the word “*providence*” and write out the definition. Clue: it is only found once in the New Testament in Acts 24:2. Strong’s entry number is G. 4307
2. Read Genesis 22:1-14 and describe God’s providence in the story.
3. How is the very definition of *providence* you discovered from Blue Letter Bible described in Genesis 22:14, though not using the word *providence*?
4. Read Psalm 104 and list evidence of the “Providence” of God contained within the Psalm in the areas of...
 - Creation (1-4)
 - Nature (10-13)
 - Humanity (14-17)
5. In Psalm 104:27-30 how is God’s relationship with His creation expressed?
6. What is the end result of and our response to the Providence of God as explained in Psalm 104:31-35?
7. Read the following verses and identify God’s Providence in them:
 - Matthew 5:45
 - Jeremiah 18:7-10
 - Romans 8:28
 - Genesis 50:20
 - Colossians 1:16-17
8. Looking further into Genesis 50:20 can you describe the two important ideas of primary and secondary causes? What was “primary” and what was “secondary.”
9. Looking at Peter’s sermon in Acts 3:11-16 how does the providence of God play into the healing of the beggar?
10. Can you draw any comfort, in times of personal suffering, when comparing these verses 1 Peter 4:12-13 – Genesis 50:20 – Romans 8:28? Verbalize what comfort you can derive from these verses.