

GOD'S PROVIDENCE

PRINCIPLES OF PROVIDENCE

AND THEIR APPLICATION TO

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

Providence

- **Once** in KJV **Acts 24:2** (*foresight* in NKJV)
PRONOIA (#4307)
 - **Rm 13:14** *make no provision for the flesh*
 - Greek verb PRONOEIO (#4306) **Rm 12:17**
Have regard for good (Provide good)
 - **2 Cor. 8:21** *providing honorable things...*
 - **1 Tim. 5:8** *if anyone does not provide for his own...*
- repay v.4 = provide v.8 = relieve v.16*

Providence

- **Once** in NIV **Job 10:12** *You gave me life and showed me kindness, and in your providence watched over my spirit.*
- NKJV *You have granted me life and favor, and Your care has preserved my spirit.*
- Hebrew PAQUDAH (**32x** in Hebrew)
Numbers 4:16 (*office* and *oversight* in KJV);
see **Ps. 109:8** and **Ac. 1:21**
- **Jer. 52:11** Zedekiah was put *in prison*
- **Ezekiel 9:1** *those who have charge over...*

PAQUDAH

- **Isaiah 15:7** *that which they have laid up*
- *Visitation* **Micah 7:4-6**; **8x** in **Jeremiah**

Micah 7:4-6

The best of them is like a brier; the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge; the day of your watchman and your *punishment* (**visitation** KJV) comes;

Now shall be their perplexity. Do not trust in a friend; do not put your confidence in a companion; guard the doors of your mouth from her who lies in your bosom.

For son dishonors father, daughter rises against her mother, daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; a man's enemies are the men of his own household.

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- **Related verb PAQAD** (#6485, “to visit”)
300x Gn 39:4-5

Genesis 39:4-5

The Lord was with Joseph, and **he** was a **successful man**; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all he did to prosper in his hand. So **Joseph found favor** in his sight, and served him. Then he made him **overseer of his house**, and all that he had he put under his authority. So it was, from the time that he had made him **overseer of his house** and all that he had, that **the Lord blessed** the **Egyptian's house** for **Joseph's** sake...

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- **Every occurrence** of these Hebrew words **implies personal involvement** **Jm 1:27**
- **God’s providence** is **God’s care** and **personal involvement** in **His creation**

Observations About God's Providence

- I can be **certain** about the **existence** of **providence** **Job 38-42, Heb. 1:3**
- **miraculous** & **direct** **Deut. 8:1-5** **purpose**

Deuteronomy 8:1-5

Every commandment which I command you today **you** must **be careful to observe**, that **you may live** and **multiply**, and go in and possess the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers. And you shall **remember** that **the Lord your God led you** all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to **humble you** and **test you**, to **know** what was in **your heart**, whether you would keep His commandments or not. So **He humbled you**, **allowed you** to hunger, and **fed you** with **manna** which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that **He** might **make you know** that **man shall not live by bread alone**; but **man lives** by **every word** that proceeds from the mouth of **the Lord**. **Your garments** did **not wear out** on **you**, nor did **your foot** swell these **forty years**. **You** should know in **your heart** that as a **man chastens** his **son**, so **the Lord your God chastens you**.

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- **Prov. 3:3-4** **mercy** & **truth** → **favor**
- **nonmiraculous** **Ne 1:11; 2:17-20; Es. 4:14-5:2**

Nehemiah 1:11; 2:17-18

1:11 “O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name; and let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.”

For I was the king's cupbearer.

2:17-18 Then I said to them, “You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach.” And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me.

So they said, “Let us rise up and build.” Then they set their hands to this good work.

Esther 4:14-5:2

“For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and **deliverance will arise** for **the Jews** from **another place**, but **you** and **your father's house** will **perish**. Yet who knows whether **you have come** to the **kingdom for such a time as this?**”

Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai: “Go, gather **all the Jews** who are present in **Shushan**, and **fast** for me; neither eat nor drink for **three days**, night or day. My maids and I **will fast** likewise. And so I **will go** to the king, which is **against the law**; and if I perish, I perish!”

So Mordecai went his way and **did** according to all that Esther commanded him.

Now it happened on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace, across from the king's house, while the king sat on his royal throne in the royal house, facing the entrance of the house. So it was, when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, that she **found favor** in his sight, and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand.

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Acts 17:24-27,31

God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us...He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

Observations About God's Providence

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Acts 17:24-28 **past, present, purpose** (**fut.**)
- I can **not** be **certain** about the **details** of **providence** **Philemon 15-16** "*perhaps*"

Principles of God's Providence

1. **God gave us guidelines and free will Gn 2**
2. **We must follow God's revealed will**
Deuteronomy 29:29
3. **If our motives are pure, God will protect us Gen. 20:3-7**
 - **If impure, we're already in trouble v.17-18**
4. **Vessel of honor or dishonor? 2 Tim. 2:20**
 - **You decide and then cleanse yourself v.21**

Principles of God's Providence

- **1 Samuel 23:1-13**
- **Revelation** for **David v.2-5**

1 Samuel 23:1-5

Then they told David, saying, “Look, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah, and they are robbing the threshing floors.” Therefore **David inquired of the Lord**, saying, “Shall I go and attack these Philistines?” And **the Lord said** to David, “**Go** and **attack** the Philistines, and **save** Keilah.”

But David's men said to him, “Look, we are afraid here in Judah. How much more then if we go to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?” Then **David inquired of the Lord** once again.

And **the Lord answered him** and said, “Arise, go down to Keilah. For **I will deliver** the Philistines into **your hand**.” And David and his men **went** to Keilah and **fought** with the Philistines, struck them with a mighty blow, and took away their livestock. So **David saved** the inhabitants of Keilah.

1 Samuel 23:6-8

Now it happened, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David at Keilah, that he went down with an ephod in his hand.

And Saul was told that David had gone to Keilah. So **Saul** said, “**God has delivered him into my hand**, for **he has shut himself in** by **entering** a **town** that has **gates** and **bars**.” Then Saul called all the people together for **war**, to **go down** to **Keilah** to **besiege David** and **his men**.

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Principles of God's Providence

- **1 Samuel 23:1-13**
- **Revelation** for **David v.2-5**
- **Assumption** by **Saul v.7-8**

1 Samuel 23:9-11

When **David knew** that **Saul plotted evil** against him, he said to Abiathar the priest, “Bring **the ephod** here.” Then **David** said, “**O Lord God of Israel, Your servant** has certainly **heard** that **Saul seeks to come** to **Keilah** to **destroy** the **city** for **my sake**. Will **the men of Keilah deliver me** into **his hand**? Will **Saul come down**, as **Your servant** has **heard**? **O Lord God of Israel, I pray, tell Your servant.**”

And **the Lord said**, “**He will come down.**”

1 Samuel 23:12-13

Then David said, “Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul?”

And the Lord said, “They will deliver you.”

So David and his men, about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah and went wherever they could go. Then it was told Saul that David had escaped from Keilah; so he halted the expedition.

Principles of God's Providence

- **1 Samuel 23:1-13**
- **Revelation** for **David v.2-5**
- Assumption by **Saul v.7**
- **v.9-13** is **not** a false prophecy but **what would have really happened IF David had not fled**
- The **implications** of **this knowledge** of **God** are astounding...

Principles of God's Providence

5. God's infinite Mind can know all possible futures based upon all possible combinations of all possible freewill decisions of all people in all possible combinations of all circumstances in all places for all times

Applications of God's Providence

- **God's Eternal Purpose Eph. 3:8-11** To me, who am **less than the least** of **all** the **saints**, this **grace was given**, that **I** should **preach** among the **Gentiles** the unsearchable **riches** of **Christ**, and to **make all see** what is the **fellowship of the mystery**, which **from** the **beginning** of the **ages** has been **hidden** in **God** who **created all things** through **Jesus Christ**; to the **intent** that now the manifold **wisdom of God** might be **made known** by **the church** to the principalities and powers in the **heavenly places**, according to the **eternal purpose** which **He accomplished** in **Christ Jesus our Lord**

Applications of God's Providence

- **God's Eternal Purpose Eph. 3:8-11**
- **Purpose** was purposely kept a secret **until fulfilled 1 Cor. 2:8** what would have happened **if Satan's forces had known**
- **God's work**, both **miraculous** and **nonmiraculous**, **never violates free will**
- **God has given His word Rom. 10:17; John 20:30-31** trust in **God's word to really live**

Applications of God's Providence

- **God's Eternal Purpose Eph. 3:8-11**
- *To make all see* **Mt 28:18-20; Mk 16:15; Lk 24 :46-47; Rm 10:8-9**
- **Are you fulfilling God's purpose?**
- **Think of all the possibilities!**
- **The Beatles helped convert 100 souls**
- **God gave you this opportunity now 2**
Peter 3:9; Rom. 8:28-30; Heb. 5:7-9
- **Mark 16:16; Luke 24:46-47; Matt. 28:19**

