

# Providence of God

- In Affairs of Nations
- For Individuals
- In Blessings
- In Trials
- In Prayers
- In Chastisement

In [Jn.16:13](#), Jesus promised, that the Holy Spirit would **REVEAL** "**All Truth**" through His Apostles.

In the first century, before the Word of God was in print, like we have it today, New Testament miracles were necessary to **REVEAL** the Gospel, and **CONFIRM** its Truth (read [Mk.16:20](#); [Heb.2:3-4](#)).

The Lord explained that **MIRACULOUS** gifts would "**CEASE**" or "**VANISH AWAY**", when the process of revelation, and confirmation of "**All Truth**" was **COMPLETED** ([1Cor.13:8-13](#)).

- When the Apostles and other men empowered by them, **DIED**, all miraculous gifts **ENDED**, because their purpose was **COMPLETED**.

Someone has rightly stated,

- "in the first century, we had inspired men, today, we have the inspired book".

Although it is true that miraculous events, do not take place today, like it did in the first century, However, the "**Providence of God**", DOES exist, which is the title of the lesson.

Providence is the non-miraculous "PROVISION" of God, as He works in the affairs of people, through natural means (NOT by miracles).

The Bible says that God preserves His creation.

- The Psalmist said, "Who covereth the heaven with clouds, Who prepareth rain for the earth, Who maketh grass to grow upon the mountains. <sup>9</sup> He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young ravens which cry." ([Psa.147:8-9](#))
- "He is before all things, and by Him all things consist." ([Col.1:17](#))
- Jesus "uphold(s) all things by the Word of His power," ([Heb.1:3b](#))

There are some things, which we cannot know.

- God, "doeth great things, past finding out, Yea, marvellous things without number." ([Job 9:10](#) ASV)
- "O the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!" ([Rom.11:33](#) ASV)
- "The secret things, belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed, belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the Words of this law." ([Deut.29:29](#) ASV)

We can notice God's Providence through,

## I. His Ruling In The Affairs of Nations

- God said, "O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the Lord. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in Mine hand, O house of Israel.

<sup>7</sup> At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it; <sup>8</sup> if that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them.

<sup>9</sup> And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it; <sup>10</sup> if it do evil in My sight, that it obey not My Voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them." ([Jer.18:6-10](#) ASV)

King Nebuchadnezzar was turned into a beast of the field, till he should know,

- "that the Most High, **RULETH** in the kingdom of men, and giveth it, to whomsoever He will." ([Dan.4:25](#) ASV)
- God, "...doeth according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay His hand, or say unto Him, What doest thou?" ([Dan.4:35b](#) ASV)

### A. God Providentially Used, Four World Empires, in bringing about the "full-ness of time" (Gal 4:4), when the Messiah would come.

- The Babylonian Kingdom, provided for establishment of synagogues.
- The Medo-Persian Empire, provided a system of law and order.
- The Greek Empire, provided a universal language.
- And the Roman Empire, provided roads, for ease of travel and communication.

We can notice God's Providence through,

## II. His Care For Individuals

Notice with me, [Gen.45:4-8](#)...

- "Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither:

for God did send me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and there are yet five years, in which there shall be neither plowing nor harvest.

<sup>7</sup> And God sent me before you to preserve you a remnant in the earth, and to save you alive by a great deliverance. <sup>8</sup> So now, it was not you that sent me hither, but **God**: and **HE** hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and ruler over all the land of Egypt." (that's [Gen.45:4-8](#) ASV)

- [Lk.12:6-7](#) reads, "Are not five sparrows sold for two pence? and not one of them is forgotten in the sight of God. <sup>7</sup> But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not: ye are of more value than many sparrows." (that's [Lk.12:6-7](#) ASV)

God shows his care for Individuals, but...

### A. NOT Through Miraculous Means

- “Elijah was a man of like passions with us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain; and it rained not on the earth for three years and six months.  
<sup>18</sup> And he prayed again; and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.” ([Jas.5:17-18](#) ASV; [1Kings 18:45](#))

The Bible says,

- “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much (or accomplishes much).” ([Jas.5:16](#))

God shows his care for Individuals.

### B. Think of Joseph’s slavery in Egypt

- Joseph said, “as for you, ye meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.” ([Gen.50:20](#) ASV)

### C. Moses was in Pharaoh’s house 40 years, then 40 years tending sheep, which was 40 years preparing him, to lead the children of God.

God shows his care for Individuals.

### D. He Provides For Our Needs, IF We Seek His Will First

- “Therefore I say unto you, Be not anxious for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than the food, and the body than the raiment?”

<sup>26</sup> Behold the birds of the heaven, that they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; and your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are not ye, of much more value, than they?

<sup>27</sup> And which of you, by being anxious, can add one cubit unto the measure of his life?

<sup>28</sup> And why are ye anxious concerning raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

<sup>29</sup> yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

<sup>30</sup> But if God doth so clothe the grass of the field, which to-day is, and to-morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, **O ye of little faith?**

<sup>31</sup> Be not therefore anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? <sup>32</sup> For after all these things do the Gentiles seek; for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

<sup>33</sup> But **SEEK** ye **FIRST** His kingdom, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be **ADDED** unto you.” ([Matt.6:25-33](#) ASV)

God shows his care for Individuals.

### E. His Care Teaches us to Learn, to Trust Him

The wisdom of Proverbs informs us to,

- “**TRUST** in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean **NOT** unto thine own understanding.  
<sup>6</sup> In **ALL** thy ways **ACKNOWLEDGE** Him, and He shall **DIRECT** thy paths.” ([Prov.3:5-6](#))

We can notice,

### III. God's Providence In Blessings

#### A. Certain Physical Blessings Come To All People

- God, "neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though He needed any thing, seeing He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;" ([Acts 17:25](#))
- God, "maketh His sun to rise on the evil, and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just, and on the unjust." ([Matt.5:45b](#))

God's Providence In Blessings, can be seen in,

#### B. Special Care for Christians

- "The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and **DELIVERETH** them out, of all their troubles." ([Psa.34:17](#))
- Jesus said, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it, more abundantly." ([Jn.10:10](#))
- "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them, that do evil." ([1Pet.3:12](#))

But if we want to be successful in life,

#### C. We Need To Do God's Will, Faithfully

- "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt **MEDITATE** therein, day and night, that thou mayest observe to **DO**, according to all that is written therein: **for THEN, thou shalt MAKE thy way PROSPEROUS, and THEN thou shalt HAVE good SUCCESS.**" ([Josh.1:8](#))
- "For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness, is **PROFITABLE** unto all things, **having PROMISE of the Life that now is,** and of that which is to come." ([1Tim.4:8](#))

We can notice,

### IV. God's Providence In Trials

#### A. God Has Always Tested and Tried His People

Notice these few passages.

- "But, O Lord of hosts, that **TRIEST** the righteous, and **SEEST** the reins and the **HEART**, let me see Thy vengeance on them: for unto Thee, have I opened my cause." ([Jer.20:12](#))
- "God did **PROVE** (or tested) Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham; and he said, Here am I. <sup>2</sup> And He said, Take now thy son, thine only son, whom thou lovest, even Isaac, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt-offering upon one of the mountains, which I will tell thee of." ([Gen.22:1-2 ASV](#))

## B. Christians Are Tried and Tested (but never tempted to do evil: Jas.1:13-14)

- “Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness, through manifold temptations:  
7 that the **TRIAL** of your faith, being much more **PRECIOUS** than of gold that perisheth, though it be **TRIED** with fire, might be **FOUND** unto praise and honour and glory **AT** the **APPEARING** of Jesus Christ.” ([1Pet.1:6-7](#))
- “My brethren, count it all joy **WHEN** ye fall into divers **TEMPTATIONS**;  
3 knowing this, that the **TRYING** of your faith, **WORKETH** patience.” ([Jas.1:2-3](#))

## C. Unforeseen Good, Can Result From, Unexpected Trials

- Paul said, “I would, ye should **UNDERSTAND**, brethren, that the things which **HAPPENED** unto me, have fallen out, rather, **UNTO** the **FURTHERANCE** of the gospel,” ([Phil.1:12](#))

## D. In All Trials, God Provides A Way of Escape

- “There hath **NO** temptation **TAKEN** you, but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will **NOT** suffer you, to be tempted **ABOVE** that ye are **ABLE**; but will **WITH** the temptation, **ALSO** make a **WAY** to **ESCAPE**, that ye may be able to **BEAR** it.” ([1Cor.10:13](#))

We can notice,

## V. God’s Providence In Prayers

We may not know the details, but,

### A. He Gives Good Gifts

- “**ASK**, and it shall be given you; **SEEK**, and ye shall find; **KNOCK**, and it shall be opened unto you:  
8 for every one that asketh **RECEIVETH**; and he that seeketh **FINDETH**;  
and to him that knocketh, it shall be **OPENED**.

9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven, give good things to them that ask Him?” ([Matt.7:7-11](#))

### B. Sometimes God Heals the Sick

Concerning “E-pa-phro-ditus”,

- Paul said, “For indeed he was **SICK**, nigh unto death: but God had **MERCY** on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.” ([Phil.2:27](#))

### C. God Gives Wisdom, for us to Understand the Need for Trials

- James said, “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.” ([Jas.1:5](#))

Concerning God's Providence In Prayers, Consider these,

## D. Words of Confirmation

- “And whatsoever we **ASK**, we receive of Him, **BECAUSE** we keep His commandments, and **DO** those things that are pleasing **IN HIS SIGHT.**” ([1Jn.3:22](#))
- “And this is the **CONFIDENCE** that we have **IN** Him, that, if we **ASK** any thing according to His WILL, He **HEARETH** us: <sup>15</sup> and if we **KNOW** that He hear us, whatsoever we **ASK**, we **KNOW** that we have the petitions, that we **DESIRED** of Him.” ([1Jn.5:14-15](#))

## E. Providence Worked for Jacob

- He said, “I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the Truth, which Thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff, I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands (that is, two companies, or camps).” ([Gen.32:10a](#))

Jacob brought gifts, and said to his brother Esau,

- “Take, I pray thee, my gift that is brought to thee; **BECAUSE** God hath **DEALT** graciously with me, and because I have **ENOUGH**. And he urged him, and he took it.” ([Gen.33:11](#) ASV)

## F. So, let us pray!

- Jesus, “spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;” ([Lk.18:1](#))

The Bible says,

- “Pray without ceasing.” ([1Thess.5:17](#))
- “Be careful for **NOTHING** (that is, don’t worry); but **IN** every thing, **BY** prayer and supplication **WITH** thanksgiving, let your **REQUESTS** be made **KNOWN** unto God. <sup>7</sup>And the **PEACE** of God, which **PASSETH** all understanding, shall **KEEP** your hearts and minds **THROUGH** Christ Jesus.” ([Phil.4:6-7](#))
- “Now unto Him, that is able to **DO** exceeding **ABUNDANTLY**, **ABOVE** all that we ask or think, according to the **POWER**, that worketh in us,” ([Eph.3:20](#))

We can notice,

# VI. God’s Providence In Chastisement

## A. He Can Admonish (or warn), and Scold

- God said, “IF ye will **NOT**, for all this, **HEARKEN** unto Me, but walk **CONTRARY** unto Me; <sup>28</sup> then I will **WALK** contrary unto you also, in **FURY**; and I, even I, will **CHASTISE** you seven times, for **YOUR SINS.**” ([Lev.26:27-28](#))
- “As many as I **LOVE**, I **REBUKE** and **CHASTEN**: be zealous therefore, and **REPENT.**” ([Rev.3:19](#))
- “for whom the Lord **LOVETH**, He **CHASTENETH**, and **SCOURGETH** every son, whom He **RECEIVETH.**” ([Heb.12:6](#))

God's Providence in Chastisement, is accomplished with,

## B. The Sword of His Mouth

- “**REPENT**; or else I will come unto thee **QUICKLY**, and will **FIGHT** against them, with the **SWORD** of My Mouth.” ([Rev.2:16](#))

God's Providence in Chastisement, is accomplished,

## C. In Love, but with a Degree of Anger

- “The Lord hath **CHASTENED** me sore: but He hath **NOT** given me **OVER** unto death.” ([Psa.118:18](#))
- “O Lord, **CORRECT** me, but with judgment; **NOT** in Thine anger, lest Thou bring me to nothing.” ([Jer.10:24](#))

## D. We Need to Endure the Chastening of the Lord (Heb 12:7), and Be in Subjection to the Father of spirits and Live (Heb 12:9-11).

# VII. IN-CLOSING

God's greatest provision (Providence) was for our salvation.

- Paul said, “For I am **NOT** ashamed of the **GOSPEL** of Christ: for it is the **POWER** of God unto **SALVATION**, to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” ([Rom.1:16](#))

Have you accepted God's offer? **If not, why not?**

What will be gained, by rejecting His Gracious offer **IN Christ?**

Jesus told the apostles,

- “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.  
<sup>16</sup> He that believeth **AND** is baptized shall be **SAVED**; but he that believeth **NOT** shall be damned.” ([Mk.16:15-16](#))

The Lord invites you, and we await to assist you.

Come without delay, while together, we stand and sing.

Source: Sermon Outline by Derrel Shaw  
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