

## Divine Providence (Part 2)

Genesis 22:8

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### Plan Of Study:

- ▶ What is Providence?
- ▶ **Distinct from Miracles.**
- ▶ General Providence: God working in nature.
- ▶ Specific Providence: God working in individual lives. (Joseph, Esther, Paul, etc.)
- ▶ Providence and free will.
- ▶ Providence and prayer.

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## Distinction Between Providence And Miracles

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### *Examples of miracles*

#### Jesus

- Turned water to wine. John 2:1-11
- Fed the multitude. John 6:1-14
- Opened the eyes of man born blind.  
John 9
- Raised Lazarus from the dead. John  
11:39-44

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### *Examples of miracles*

#### Peter:

- Cures the sick. Acts 3:6; 5:15-16
- Heals Aeneas. Acts 9:34
- Raised Dorcas from the dead. Acts 9:40
- Caused the death of Ananias and  
Sapphira. Acts 5:5,10

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### *Examples of miracles*

#### Paul:

- Strikes Elymas blind. Acts 13:11
- Heals a cripple. Acts 14:10
- Raised Eutychus from the dead.  
Acts 20:9-12

***These are not reproducible today!***

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### Have Miracles Ceased?

- The Purpose Is Accomplished. Hebrews 2:1–4
- Holy Spirit Baptism Has Ceased. John 13–16; Acts 1:5; Acts 2; Acts 10
- Means Of Imparting Gifts Has Ceased. Acts 8:18
- Would Cease With The Complete Revelation. 1 Corinthians 12–14
- No Evidence of Miracles Today!

### “Miracle” Defined:

- Works of a supernatural origin and character, such as could not be produced by natural means and agents.
- That which results from a special act of divine will without use of natural means, and contrary to the laws of nature.
- **A miracle is not just any strange or unusual event, or one that defies our understanding.**

### “Providence” Defined:

- God’s providence is His continuous activity of preserving and governing the whole of creation by His wisdom and goodness and power, for the fulfillment of His eternal purpose and for the glory of His name.
- **Providence is the working of God through His provision in the natural and spiritual realms, yet it is a control that violates neither the sovereignty of the human will nor the divine natural and spiritual laws.**

### Conclusion:

- God’s providence.**
1. In creating the world and man, He made provision to control both.
    - He answers the petitions of His saints and directs the whole to fulfilling of His ultimate purpose.
  2. Let us believe in that providence and see God’s hand in all the affairs of life.

### Conclusion:

- *“For all this I laid to my heart, even to explore all this: that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God.” (Ecclesiastes 9:1)*
- *May wish more is said, yet “Man cannot find out the work that God hath done from the beginning even to the end.” (Ecclesiastes 3:11)*
- *Therefore we “walk by faith, not by sight.” (2 Corinthians 5:7; cf. Romans 1:17; cf. Habakkuk 2:4)*
- *We “Trust in Jehovah with all thy heart, And lean not upon thine own understanding: In all thy ways acknowledge him, And he will direct thy paths.” (Proverbs 3:5–6)*