

## Divine Providence (Part 3)

Genesis 22:8

### 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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### Basis Of Providence

- ▶ *"The Lord has established His throne in the heavens; and His sovereignty rules over all" (Psalms 103:19)*
- ▶ Rules extends over all things
- ▶ Acts without voiding man's ability to choose own actions.

Three ways in which God relates to his creation.

- ▶ **General Providence**
- ▶ **Special Providence**
  - God's intervention
- ▶ **Miracles**
  - Acts that are contrary to natural laws.

Three ways in which God relates to his creation.

**1. General providence ...** God working to preserve the universe and direct its natural processes according to the predictable patterns we call the "laws of nature."

- ▶ In this realm, God's providence relates to all people alike, *"for he causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Matthew 5:45)*

Three ways in which God relates to his creation.

**2. Special providence ...** This refers to God's intervention into the regular course of things in order to produce a variation that would not have occurred otherwise, but which does not violate the possibilities of natural law.

- ▶ cf. His rule over history, since this is his ordinary way of working out His special purposes for mankind.

Three ways in which God relates to his creation.

3. **Miracles ...** These are acts of God that are contrary to natural law.

**Miracles Have 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!

General Providence

God’s Right to Claim Universal Rule and Direction

- ▶ **Basis of His creative power**
  - Genesis 1:1 Creator.
  - Psalms 33:6–9
  - Psalms 104:1–8
  - Psalms 148:5–6
  - Romans 1:20
  - Colossians 1:16–17

God’s Right to Claim Universal Rule and Direction

- ▶ **On the basis of this creative power and its usage, Jehovah claims His control, rule, and direction of the universe.**
- ▶ John 1:1–3,14
- ▶ Hebrews 1:2
- ▶ Revelation 4:11

God Preserves In Existence The Things He Created  
Acts 17:28; Colossians 1:17

- ▶ **Creation itself. Job 38:4–7**
- ▶ **In Him**
  - Only God can answer these questions
  - Hebrews 1:3
  - 2 Peter 3:10–12

## God's Involvement in the Processes of Nature

- ▶ **Job's bewilderment ...**
- ▶ Job 9:22-24
- ▶ Job 38:4-38
  - Could any man answer these questions?
  - Questions men have pondered for centuries!

## God Rules The Inanimate World Job 38:4-38

- ▶ **Control and government of the sea.** (verses 8-14). cf. Psalms 104:1,5-9; Jeremiah 5:22
  - God not only created the sea and set bounds about it, but He continues to control its activities. cf. Jeremiah 31:35
- ▶ **The bringing forth of the dawn.** (Vs. 12-15)
- ▶ **The dwelling of light.** (verses 19-21)

## God Rules The Inanimate World Job 38:4-38

- ▶ **Snow and Hail.** (verses 22-24)
  - God says that the treasuries of the snow and hail are His arsenal which He has *"reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war."*
- ▶ **Rain, Lightning, and Thunder.** (verses 25-30)

## God Rules The Inanimate World Job 38:4-38

- ▶ **The Heavenly Bodies.** (verses 31-33)
- ▶ **The Clouds and Rain.** (verses 34-38) cf. Psalms 135:6-7; Job 36:27-28; 37:11-12

## God's Control in the Animate Kingdom Job 38:39-41:34

- ▶ **The Lioness and her Whelps.** (38:39-40)
- ▶ **The Raven.** (verse 41) God has made provision for man and the raven. *"I know every bird of the mountains."* (Psalms 50:11)
  - Not even one sparrow is forgotten before God. (Luke 12:6; Matthew 10:29)
- ▶ **The Wild Goats.** (39:1-4)
- ▶ **The Wild Ass and the Swift Ass.** (39: 5-8)

## God's Control in the Animate Kingdom Job 38:39-41:34

- ▶ **The Wild Ox.** (39:9-12)
- ▶ **The Ostrich** (39:13-18)
- ▶ **The Horse.** (39:19-25)
- ▶ **The Hawk and the Eagle.** (39:26-30)

## Conclusion:

- ▶ God's care for these and all other creatures, through purpose and law in the inanimate world and instilling instinct in the animate creation, displays His forethought and foresight - PROVIDENCE!
- ▶ He teaches Job that in back of his creation there is purpose; and though Job may not fully understand, he had to admit, "*I know that thou canst do all things, And that no purpose of thine can be restrained.*" (Job 42:2)
- ▶ We too must concur with this conclusion.