

# The Providence of God

## 12 September 2004

### Introduction:

The word 'providence' is defined as "care or preparation in advance; foresight" (AHD 997). Such a definition demands that the examiner investigate future outcomes of events that occurred at the foresight and advanced preparation of another. Our lesson today deals with the providence of God. The first and foremost providential event that occurs in the Bible would be the birth, life, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and glorification of Jesus Christ. By the providence of God, Jesus died on the cross for man's sins. Sometimes we may ponder various questions regarding God's providence. One may ask 'if God knows the future why should we pray?' This lesson shall examine the providence of God as the Bible illustrates it that we may gain a greater understanding of who God is and how He operates.

### I. Who is God?

- A. God is omniscient (Jer. 23:23-25).
- B. God is omnipresent (Jer. 16:17; 23:24; 29:23; 32:19).
- C. God is omnipotent (Gen. 18:14; Jer. 32:17; 51:15-19).

### II. Examples of God's providence:

- A. Jesus is brought into the world to save men from their sins (Gen. 12:1ff; Gal. 3:8, 16).
- B. Joseph brought to Egypt by the providence of God (Gen. 45:5; 50:20).
- C. Pharaoh was used that God may show the world His power (Rom. 9:17).
- D. Assyrians used to accomplish God's punishment of Israel (Isa. 10:5-10).
- E. Babylon used to accomplish repentance in Judah (Jer. 25:8-9; 30:11; 31:17-20; 46:28) as God's "*battle-axe*" (Jer. 51:20).

### III. What is my part in God's providence?

- A. The above examples indicate that God used the wicked character of men and nations to accomplish His will.
- B. God also used the good character of some (Joseph) to accomplish His will.
- C. What will my part be?
- D. Can I pray with expectation of consequence if God is a god of providence?
- E. Does God's providence take away choice?
- F. Does God's providence prove or disprove Calvinism?

### Conclusion:

God's desire is that all would be saved (II Pet. 3:9). To achieve this purpose, the Lord uses His providence that man will be placed in the environment to make the choice of spiritual life or death. God does not cause man to sin in the process of providential care (James 1:13-14). How will the Lord use you and I in His providence? Will it be through our evil or through our good?