

THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD

**A Journey Through the
Old Testament**

Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope.

The Providence of God

Daniel 4

34 But at the end of those days, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven, and my sanity was restored to me.

Then I praised the Most High, and I honored and glorified Him who lives forever:

“For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom endures from generation to generation.

The Providence of God

Daniel 4

35 All the peoples of the earth are counted as nothing,

and He does as He pleases with the army of heaven and the peoples of the earth.

There is no one who can restrain His hand or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’”

The Providence of God

Ephesians 1

11 In Him we were also chosen as God's own, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything by the counsel of His will,

The Providence of God

Providence is that continued exercise of that divine energy whereby the Creator:

1. Preserves all His creatures
2. Is operative in all that comes to pass in the world
3. Directs all things to their appointed end

The Providence of God

Four Things to Remember:

1. We will seldom understand God's acts of providence except as we look back
 - and often from a great distance
 - and most often not even in this life

Ecclesiastes 8

14 There is a futility that is done on the earth:

There are righteous men who get what the actions of the wicked deserve, and there are wicked men who get what the actions of the righteous deserve.

The Providence of God

Four Things to Remember:

2. God works out His will in all things without infringing on our liberty

The Providence of God

Proverbs 16

**9 The heart of man plans his way,
but the LORD establishes his steps.**

The Providence of God

Four Things to Remember:

3. God works out His will in all things
without absolving us of responsibility

The Providence of God

Four Things to Remember:

4. The one who truly believes in the providence of God will never:

- be boastful
- be ungrateful
- be fearful

The Providence of God

The Question is not:

How can we control, or use,
or even understand God's providence?

The Providence of God

The Question is:

How can we REST SECURE in God's providential hand?

Genesis 24

1 By now Abraham was old and well along in years, and the LORD had blessed him in every way.

Genesis 24

2 So Abraham instructed the chief servant of his household, who managed all he owned, “Place your hand under my thigh, 3 and I will have you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites among whom I am dwelling,

4 but will go to my country and my kindred to take a wife for my son Isaac.”

Genesis 24

5 The servant asked him, “What if the woman is unwilling to follow me to this land?

Shall I then take your son back to the land from which you came?”

6 Abraham replied, “Make sure that you do not take my son back there.

Genesis 24

7 The LORD, the God of heaven, who brought me from my father's house and my native land, who spoke to me and promised me on oath, saying, 'To your offspring I will give this land'—He will send His angel before you so that you can take a wife for my son from there.

8 And if the woman is unwilling to follow you, then you are released from this oath of mine. Only do not take my son back there.'"

Genesis 24

9 So the servant placed his hand under his master Abraham's thigh and swore an oath to him concerning this matter.

10 Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed with all manner of good things from his master in hand.

And he set out for Nahor's hometown in Mesopotamia.



Asia Minor

Armenia

Syria

Mesopotamia

Assyria

Media

Elam

Persia

Egypt

**The
Old Testament
World**



• Haran

Paddan Aram

• Nineveh

• Sidon
• Tyre

• Damascus

• Jerusalem

• Babylon

• Ur

• Susa

• Memphis

MT Sinai

Caucasus Mountains
Ararat Mountains
Mt Ararat

Taurus Mountains

Lebanon Mountains

Araxes R.

Caspian Sea

Caspian Mountains

Euphrates R.

Tigris R.

Chaldea

Zagros Mountains

Persian Gulf

Nile R.

Red Sea

Genesis 24

11 As evening approached, he made the camels kneel down near the well outside the town, at the time when the women went out to draw water.

12“O LORD, God of my master Abraham,” he prayed, “please grant me success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham.

Genesis 24

13 Here I am, standing beside the spring, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water.

14 Now may it happen that the girl to whom I say, ‘Please let down your jar that I may drink,’ and who responds, ‘Drink, and I will water your camels as well’—let her be the one You have appointed for Your servant Isaac.

By this I will know that You have shown kindness to my master.”

Genesis 24

15 Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder.

She was the daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah, the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor.

16 Now the girl was very beautiful, a virgin who had not had relations with any man.

She went down to the spring, filled her jar, and came up again.

Genesis 24

17 So the servant ran to meet her and said, “Please let me have a little water from your jar.”

18 “Drink, my lord,” she replied, and she quickly lowered her jar to her hands and gave him a drink.

Genesis 24

19 After she had given him a drink, she said, “I will also draw water for your camels, until they have had enough to drink.”

20 And she quickly emptied her jar into the trough and ran back to the well to draw water, until she had drawn water for all his camels.

Genesis 24

19 After she had given him a drink, she said, “I will also draw water for your camels, until they have had enough to drink.”

20 And she quickly emptied her jar into the trough and ran back to the well to draw water, until she had drawn water for all his camels.

21 Meanwhile, the man watched her silently to see whether or not the LORD had made his journey a success.

Genesis 24

22 And after the camels had finished drinking, he took out a gold ring weighing a beka, and two gold bracelets for her wrists weighing ten shekels.

23 “Whose daughter are you?” he asked. “Please tell me, is there room in your father’s house for us to spend the night?”

24 She replied, “I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son that Milcah bore to Nahor.”

25 Then she added, “We have plenty of straw and feed, as well as a place for you to spend the night.”

Genesis 24

26 Then the man bowed down and worshiped the LORD, 27 saying, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not withheld His kindness and faithfulness from my master.

As for me, the LORD has led me on the journey to the house of my master’s kinsmen.”

The Providence of God

How can we rest in God's Providence?

**Seek to please God
Not just to obey Him**

Genesis 24

2 So Abraham instructed the chief servant of his household, who managed all he owned, “Place your hand under my thigh, 3 and I will have you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites among whom I am dwelling,

4 but will go to my country and my kindred to take a wife for my son Isaac.”

The Providence of God

How can we rest in God's Providence?

Seek to please God
Not just to obey Him

Psalm 119

Blessed are those who keep His TESTIMONIES

...revive me according to Your ORDINANCES

...that I may observe Your LAW

I meditate on Your STATUTES

I will regard your WAYS

I will not forget Your WORD

I have chosen the way of TRUTH

How I long for Your PRECEPTS

...give me understanding to learn Your COMMANDMENTS

...according to Your PROMISES

Ephesians 5

8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light,

9 for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth.

10 Test and prove what pleases the Lord.

Ephesians 5

15 Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

1 Peter 1

8 Though you have not seen Him, you love Him;

and though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and rejoice with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

9 now that you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Providence of God

How can we rest in God's Providence?

Stand on God's promises

like they are more sure than life itself

Genesis 24

5 The servant asked him, “What if the woman is unwilling to follow me to this land?

Shall I then take your son back to the land from which you came?”

6 Abraham replied, “Make sure that you do not take my son back there.

Genesis 24

7 The LORD, the God of heaven, who brought me from my father's house and my native land, who spoke to me and promised me on oath, saying, 'To your offspring I will give this land'—He will send His angel before you so that you can take a wife for my son from there.

8 And if the woman is unwilling to follow you, then you are released from this oath of mine.

Only do not take my son back there.”

Promises like ...

Forgiveness of sins in Christ Jesus

The old has passed away and the new has come

The Holy Spirit in us – Christ is truly with us always

The next life is far more glorious than this one

We are adopted as children of the living God

We are heirs of God with our brother Christ Jesus

All things work together for my good

Hebrews 6

16 Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and their oath serves as a confirmation to end all argument.

17 So when God wanted to make the unchanging nature of His purpose very clear to the heirs of the promise, He guaranteed it with an oath.

18 Thus by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be strongly encouraged.

Hebrews 6

19 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and steadfast.

It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,

20 where Jesus our forerunner has entered on our behalf.

He has become a high priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.

THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD

**A Journey Through the
Old Testament**

Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope.