

Divine Providence

The background of the image is a complex, multi-layered 3D wireframe structure. It consists of numerous overlapping geometric shapes, including cylinders, rectangular prisms, and spheres, all rendered in a vibrant green color. The lines are thin and create a dense, intricate pattern that suggests a complex, interconnected system or a multi-dimensional space. The overall effect is one of depth and complexity, with the shapes appearing to float and intersect in a way that creates a sense of three-dimensional volume and perspective.



Divine Providence

“God learns and adapts to different circumstances.”



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- 43% of US Evangelicals agreed

Providence



Providence

before
forward

Providence

to see

Providence
Provision
to see forward
to foresee

Exodus 3

7 The LORD said, "I have indeed **seen** the affliction of My people in Egypt. I **have heard** them crying out because of their oppressors, and I **am aware** of their sufferings.

8 I **have come down to rescue** them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey

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Genesis 22

7 “The fire and the wood are here,” said Isaac, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

8 Abraham answered, “God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two walked on together.

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Genesis 22

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13 Then Abraham looked up and saw behind him a ram in a thicket, caught by its horns.

So he went and took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

14 And Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide.

So to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”

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14 And Abraham called the name of that place **Jehovahjireh**: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be **seen**.

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God's works of providence are the acts of his most holy, wise, and powerful government of his creatures, and of their actions. - Thomas Watson (Body of Divinity)

Providence, then, is the sovereign, divine superintendence of all things, guiding them toward their divinely predetermined end in a way that is consistent with their created nature, all to the glory and praise of God.

Four purposes/goals for this series:

1. To give us a bit of a “change of pace”.
 - This is a topical series rather than an expository one.
 - It will give us a chance to look at scriptures that we will not otherwise come across for a long time.
2. We will learn many other truths from God’s word in addition to teaching on divine providence.
3. To change the way we think about God working in our lives daily.
 - To change from a cultural worldview, to a biblical one.

Judges 1

4 When Judah attacked, the LORD delivered the Canaanites and Perizzites into their hands, and they struck down ten thousand men at Bezek.

5 And there they found Adoni-bezek and fought against him, striking down the Canaanites and Perizzites.

6 As Adoni-bezek fled, they pursued him, seized him, and cut off his thumbs and big toes.

7 Then Adoni-bezek said, “Seventy kings with their thumbs and big toes cut off have gathered the scraps under my table. As I have done to them, so God has repaid me.”

And they brought him to Jerusalem, where he died.

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1 Kings 20

19 Meanwhile, these young officers of the district governors marched out of the city, with the army behind them,
20 and each one struck down his opponent.

So the Arameans fled, with the Israelites in pursuit.

But Ben-hadad king of Aram escaped on horseback with the cavalry.

23 Meanwhile, the servants of the king of Aram said to him,
“Their gods are gods of the hills.

That is why they prevailed over us.

Instead, we should fight them on the plains; surely then we will prevail.

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1 Kings 20

26 In the spring, Ben-hadad mobilized the Arameans and went up to Aphek to fight against Israel.

27 The Israelites also mobilized, gathered supplies, and marched out to meet them.

The Israelites camped before them like two small flocks of goats, while the Arameans covered the countryside.

28 Then the man of God approached the king of Israel and said, “This is what the LORD says:

‘Because the Arameans think the LORD is a god of the hills and not of the valleys, I will deliver all this great army into your hand. Then you will know that I am the LORD.’ ”

1 Kings 20

29 For seven days the armies camped opposite each other, and on the seventh day the battle ensued, and the Israelites struck down the Arameans—a hundred thousand foot soldiers in one day.

30 The rest of them fled into the city of Aphek, where the wall fell on twenty-seven thousand of the remaining men.

Jeremiah 40

**2 The captain of the guard found Jeremiah and said to him,
“The LORD your God decreed this disaster on this place,
3 and now the LORD has fulfilled it; He has done just as He
said.**

**Because you people have sinned against the LORD and have
not obeyed His voice, this thing has happened to you.**

Acts 14

11 When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices in the Lycaonian language:

“The gods have come down to us in human form!”

12 Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.

13 The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates, hoping to offer a sacrifice along with the crowds.

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 - Despair, fear and anxiety/worry

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Peter Singer

“When we reject belief in God, we must give up the idea that life on this planet has some preordained meaning. Life as a whole has no meaning.”

Thomas Nagel

“Darwin enabled modern secular culture to heave a great collective sigh of relief, by apparently providing a way to eliminate purpose, meaning and design as fundamental features of the world.”

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Richard Dawkins (When asked about the purpose of life):

“Well, there is no purpose, and to ask what it is, is a silly question. It has the same status as ‘What is the colour of jealousy’.”

“In a universe of blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, other people are going to get lucky, and you won't find any rhyme or reason in it, nor any justice.

The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference.”

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William Provine

“Let me summarize my views on what modern evolutionary biology tells us loud and clear

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William Provine

“Let me summarize my views on what modern evolutionary biology tells us loud and clear There are no gods, no purposes, no goal-directed forces of any kind.

There is no life after death. When I die, I am absolutely certain that I am going to be dead. That’s the end for me.

There is no ultimate foundation for ethics, no ultimate meaning to life, and no free will for humans, either.”

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 - Despair, fear and anxiety/worry evaporate when we come to know that we live under a God who aggressively provides for His children.

Matthew 6

25 Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear.

Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

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Reason #1:

True “life” is being concerned about greater things.

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Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

26 Look at the birds of the air:

They do not sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns—and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

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Reason #2:

God feeds the birds (they do nothing to store up food).

Psalm 104

27 All creatures look to You
to give them their food in due season.

28 When You give it to them,
they gather it up; when You open Your hand,
they are satisfied with good things.

29 When You hide Your face,
they are terrified;
when You take away their breath,
they die and return to dust.

30 When You send Your Spirit,
they are created,
and You renew the face of the earth.

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Are you not much more valuable than they?

Reason #2:

God feeds the birds (they do nothing to store up food).

And you are much more valuable to Him than birds.

Matthew 6

**27 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?
- can add a single cubit to your stature?**

Luke 12:26 So if you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

Reason #3:

It is useless.

You do not have that kind of power.

You are not the one in control!!

Matthew 6

27 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

28 And why do you worry about clothes?

Consider how the lilies of the field grow:

They do not labor or spin.

29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his glory was adorned like one of these.

Reason #4:

God's work is far, far more glorious than man's.

Matthew 6

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28 And why do you worry about clothes?

Consider how the lilies of the field grow:

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29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his glory was adorned like one of these.

30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

Matthew 6

31 Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

32 For the Gentiles strive after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

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Matthew 7

9 Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?

10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?

11 So if you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children,

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10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?

11 So if you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

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Matthew 10

29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?

Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father.

30 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

31 So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

1 Timothy 5

8 If anyone does not provide for his own, and especially his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Romans 8

31 What then shall we say in response to these things?
If God is for us, who can be against us?

32 He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also, along with Him, freely give us all things?

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Reason #5:

Your heavenly Father will care for His children.

And He will attend more vigilantly to your needs than He does the rest of His creation.

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33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.

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