

God's Providential Will

Who threw Jonah into the sea?

Jonah 1:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ So they picked up Jonah, threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging.

Jonah 2:3 (NASB)

³ "For You had cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the current engulfed me. All Your breakers and billows passed over me.

Who sold Joseph into slavery?

Genesis 37:23-24 (NIV)

²³ So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe--the richly ornamented robe he was wearing--

²⁴ and they took him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty;

Genesis 50:20 (NIV)

²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Who hardened Pharaoh's heart?

Exodus 8:15 (NIV)

¹⁵ But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said.

Exodus 9:12 (NIV)

¹² But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart and he would not listen to Moses and Aaron,

Romans 9:17-21 (NIV)

¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."

¹⁸ Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.

¹⁹ One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?"

²⁰ But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'"

²¹ Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?

Who made Esther queen?

Esther 2:17 (NIV)

¹⁷ Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

Esther 4:14 (NIV)

¹⁴ For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"

Who wreaked havoc on Job?

Job 2:7 (NIV)

⁷ So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head.

Job 1:8-12 (NIV)

⁸ Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job?.....¹⁰ "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has?.....¹² The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

Who sentenced Jesus to death?

John 19:16 (NIV)

¹⁶ Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus.

John 19:11 (NIV)

¹¹ Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

John 10:18 (NIV)

¹⁸ No one takes my life from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again.

The word *provide* is from the Latin word *providere*. *Porvidere* means foresee.

Fore thought and foresight imply a future end, a goal, and a definite purpose and plan for attaining that end.

The word *providence* has come to be used to signify that preparation, care, and supervision which are necessary to secure a desired future result.

Isaiah 46:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';

1. Providence is the _____ of God working all things out for His _____.

Psalm 145:3 (NASB)

³ Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised, And His greatness is unsearchable.

Psalm 147:5 (NASB)

⁵ Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.

Psalm 139:6 (NASB)

⁶ *Such* knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is *too* high, I cannot attain to it.

2. Believers are under God's providential _____.

Proverbs 19:21 (NASB)

²¹ Many plans are in a man's heart, But the counsel of the LORD will stand.

Proverbs 20:24 (NASB)

²⁴ Man's steps are *ordained* by the LORD, How then can man understand his way?

3. Believers are under God's providential _____.

Jeremiah 1:5 (NIV)

⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

4. Believers are under God's providential _____.

Psalm 18:32-36 (NASB)

³² The God who girds me with strength And makes my way blameless?

³³ He makes my feet like hinds' *feet*, And sets me upon my high places.

³⁴ He trains my hands for battle, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

³⁵ You have also given me the shield of Your salvation, And Your right hand upholds me; And Your gentleness makes me great.

³⁶ You enlarge my steps under me, And my feet have not slipped.

5. Believers are under God's providential _____.

Jonah 2:3 (NKJV)

³ For You cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the floods surrounded me; All Your billows and Your waves passed over me.

6. Believers are under God's providential _____.

James 5:11

We consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy."

Romans 8:28 (NASB)

²⁸ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

Duet. 8:15-16

"He led you through the great and terrible wilderness, *with its* fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water; He brought water for you out of the rock of flint.

¹⁶ "In the wilderness He fed you manna which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do good for you in the end.

7. Believers are in God's providential _____.

Job 1:8 (NASB)

⁸The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job?....**Job 42:5 (NASB)**

⁵"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You;

Psalms 66:10-11

For You have tried us, O God;
You have refined us as silver is refined. ¹¹ You brought us into the net;
You laid an oppressive burden upon our loins.

Psalm 119:67 (NASB)

⁶⁷ Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word.

8. Believers are under God's providential _____.

Proverbs 16:33 (NASB)

³³ The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.

Proverbs 16:9 (NASB)

⁹ The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.

Proverbs 20:24 (NIV)

²⁴ A man's steps are directed by the LORD. How then can anyone understand his own way?

Genesis 50:20 (NASB)

²⁰ "As for you, you meant evil against me, *but* God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

9. Believers are under God's providential _____.

Psalm 139:16 (NIV)

All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

10. Kings and presidents are under God's providential _____.

Proverbs 21:1 (NASB)

¹ The king's heart is *like* channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes.

11. Nations are under God's providential _____.

Job 12:23 (NASB)

²³ "He makes the nations great, then destroys them; He enlarges the nations, then leads them away.

Psalm 103:19 (NIV)

¹⁹The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.

Why is *providence* important to us?

In Providence there is hope for the afflicted

In Providence there is rest for the weary

In Providence there is peace for the one who has unrest

In Providence there is strength for the weak

In Providence there is purpose in our pain

In Providence there is security in our future

In Providence there is grace in our mist

There are three wills:

1. God's providential will (empowers you).
2. God's written will (equips you).
3. God's personal will for you (sends you).

Proverbs 4:27 (NASB)

²⁷Do not turn to the right nor to the left; Turn your foot from evil.

Proverbs 4:20-27 (NASB)

²⁰My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings.

²¹Do not let them depart from your sight; Keep them in the midst of your heart.

²²For they are life to those who find them And health to all their body.

²³Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it *flow* the springs of life.

²⁴Put away from you a deceitful mouth And put devious speech far from you.

²⁵Let your eyes look directly ahead And let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you.

²⁶Watch the path of your feet And all your ways will be established.

²⁷Do not turn to the right nor to the left; Turn your foot from evil.