

The Providence of God and the People of Promise (Exodus 1:1-7)

“God is continually involved with all created things in such a way that He (1) keeps them existing and maintaining the properties with which He created the: (2) cooperates with created things in every action, directing their distinctive properties to cause them to act as they do; and (3) directs them to fulfill His purposes.” Wayne Grudem

1.The providence of God preserves the covenant community.

2.The providence of God reunited the covenant community.

3.The providence of God expanding the covenant community.

The word providence is not found in scripture, the doctrine of providence is nevertheless eminently scriptural. The word has come to signify the provision which God makes for the ends of His government, and the preservation and government of all His creatures. This is the sense in which it is now generally used in theology. *Louis Berkhof*

God's providence encompasses the universes as a whole (Ps. 103:19; Eph. 1:11), the physical realm (Job 37:1-13; Matt. 5:45), the animals (Ps. 104:21; Matt. 6:25), the nations (Job 12:23; Ps. 66:7; Acts 17:26), man's birth and life (1 Sam. 1:19-20; Gal. 1:15-16), Man's successes and failures (Ps. 75:6-7; Luke 1:52), things apparently accidental and unimportant (Prov. 16:33; Matt. 10:30), protection of His people (Ps. 4:8; Rom. 8:28), provision for His people (Gen. 22:8; Phil 4:19), answering prayers (1 Sam. 9:9-19; Luke 18:7-8), and judging the wicked (Ps. 7:12-13).

An important distinction in studying God's providence is between His general providence and His special/specific providence. God's general providence involves His control of the whole universe (Ps. 103:19; Eph. 1:11). His special providence encompasses His control of the details of the universe, including the details of history (Acts 2:23) and the details in the lives of individual people, esp. the elect (Eph. 1:3-12).

Biblical Doctrine/ John Macarthur and Richard Mayhue

Small group time suggestions:

Discuss the highlights of Genesis that lead us into the book of Exodus.

Discuss God's providence by looking at some of the above scriptures.

Share examples from scripture where it is obvious that the hand of God's providence was moving in the glove of history.

Share an example from your own life (if you have one) of God's hand of providence directing you.

Memory Verses for next week are **Exodus 2:24-25**.