



Lesson Notes – June 6, 2020
The Providence of God
(Ruth 2:12)

Scripture Passage: “The Lord repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge.”

A. Providence (The Invisible Hand)

- Bible affirms through scripture the existence of God (**Genesis 1:1, Hebrews 11:6**), that he created the universe and intervened in times past.
- God is Eternal “I AM (**Exodus 3:14**); the God “who is and who was and who is to come” (**Revelation 1:4**)
- Theologians, Christians have no doubt His involvement in the affairs of the world today, but it’s important that we keep in the forefront HOW the Lord operates.

B. The Doctrine of Providence

- Life has no meaning or purpose when God is removed from one’s world view.
- Problems are a part of life and how one handles these problems is related to our view of God.
- Believing in divine providence helps one to cope with the vicissitudes of life.

C. Doctrine

- Deism – God is intelligent Creator of a law-abiding world but denies that he providentially it guides or intervenes in any way with its course of destiny; denies scripture.
- Pantheism – creation does not have a distinct and independent existence in itself, but is a part of God in the trees, rocks, sun, and moon; identify with various forces and works of nature similar to polytheism (belief in many Gods) goes beyond to teach everything is God.

“Pray for God’s help and guidance in applying these verses”.

- Providence – biblical view that recognizes God operates providentially in the world by means of a natural law; not determined by fate or chance but by God who is personal and actively involved in his creation at every moment; Latin word “providentia” means “foresight”, pro – before – to see in front; vide – see.

“Divine intervention in the affairs of man within the confines of natural law to bring God’s objectives.”

Providence is opposed to deism which asserts God’s non-interest in the world; and is the opposite of “fate” or “chance,” which sees world events as uncontrollable and without any element of benevolent purpose **Heb 1:3** – “... and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command...”

The **doctrine of God’s providence** is really a combination of three other attributes:

1. **Sovereignty** - He is in control and is in charge of how everything turns out.
2. **Wisdom** - He makes no mistakes.
3. **Goodness** - He has our best interests at heart. • In the words of R.C. Sproul, “God doesn’t roll the dice.” Nothing ever happens by chance.

“Pray for God’s help and guidance in applying these verses”.