

God Will Provide
1st Samuel 21:1-9



R.C. Sproul, “One way in which the secular mind-set has made inroads into the Christian community is through the worldview that assumes that everything happens according to fixed natural causes.”

- “and God, if He is actually there, is above and beyond it all. He is just a spectator in heaven looking down, perhaps cheering us on but exercising no immediate control over what happens on earth.”

Christians have a different mind-set or world view

- That this is our God's world and that the affairs of men and nations, in the final analysis, are in His hands.
- **Romans 8:28 NIV** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Christians have a different mind-set or world view

Biblical word is Providence

- It's made up of two words - "pro" and "video" put together, literally meaning "to see beforehand, a prior seeing, a foresight."
- It refers to "God's gracious oversight of the universe"

Christians have a different mind-set or world view

- We know from scripture
 - He upholds all things
 - He governs all events
 - He directs everything to its appointed end
 - He does this all the time, and in every circumstance
 - He does it always for his own glory

Christians have a different mind-set or world view

- The first time we find the word providence is with Abraham and Isaac
- **Genesis 22:8 NIV** Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.”

Christians have a different mind-set or world view

We see it in the life of Joseph

Genesis 50:19-20 NIV 19 But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

We see it in the life of Joseph

Think about the implications of that statement:

- At just the right moment his brothers threw him into the cistern.
- At just the right moment the Midianites came along.
- At just the right moment he was sold to Potiphar.
- At just the right moment Potiphar's wife falsely accused him.

We see it in the life of Joseph

Think about the implications of that statement:

- At just the right moment he met the baker and the cupbearer.
- At just the right moment the cupbearer remembered Joseph.
- At just the right moment Pharaoh called for him.
- At just the right moment he was promoted to Prime Minister.

We see it in the life of Joseph

Think about the implications of that statement:

- At just the right moment Jacob sent his sons to Egypt.
- At just the right moment the brothers met Joseph.
- At just the right moment Jacob's family moved to Egypt.

We see it in the life of Joseph

Think about the implications of that statement:

- At just the right moment Pharaoh offered them the land of Goshen.
- At just the right moment they settled there and prospered.

We see it in the life of Joseph

All of this happened at “just the right moment” and “just the right way” so that the right people would be in the right place so that in the end everything would come out the way God had ordained in the beginning.

- God never violated anyone’s free will, yet everything happened as he had planned. That’s the providence of God in action.
- Even in the seemingly smallest of events

As we look at our world today we wonder if God is really active and moving to accomplish His purpose

- As we look at our own lives we wonder if God is really paying attention
- As we look at providence in a seemingly obscure passage of scripture about David and how God used it centuries later, may you see God is just as active in your lives today
- **1st Samuel 21:1-9**

Consecrated bread or Show Bread

- Literally “bread of faces”, it is bread associated with and eaten before, the face of God
- It means to eat God’s bread in God’s house as a friend of the Lord enjoying his hospitality
- Eating in one’s home in that culture formed a bond of friendship that was permanent and sacred

Consecrated bread or Show Bread

- It was not to be treated casually but regarded as holy and not distributed casually
- Why God said in the Law it was for the priests that serve before him

Here comes David scared, hungry, confused, hopeless

- He now knows Saul is trying to kill him
- He knows God has anointed him king of Israel, but Saul is still on the throne
- He asked the priest for 5 loaves of the bread

Here comes David scared, hungry, confused, hopeless

1st Samuel 22:9-10 NIV 9 But Doeg the Edomite, who was standing with Saul's officials, said, "I saw the son of Jesse come to Ahimelek son of Ahitub at Nob. 10 Ahimelek inquired of the Lord for him; he also gave him provisions and the sword of Goliath the Philistine."

- Oh yeah, and the sword of Goliath was there as well, coincident? I think not.

Praise God for His example of taking care of David

- God's blessings and authority flowed through the priest to David, it was outside of the tradition
- Goliath's sword was a constant reminder to David of God provision
- God also knew Jesus would need a weapon one day while being attacked by Pharisees

Praise God for His example of taking care of David

Mark 2:23-27 NIV 23 One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grain fields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. 24 The Pharisees said to him, “Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?” 25 He answered, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need?”

Praise God for His example of taking care of David

26 In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions.” 27 Then he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. 28 So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”

- So, what does this tell us this morning?

First, God cares about the tiniest details of life

- Nothing escapes his notice for he is concerned about the small as well as the big
- Have you noticed how Jesus loved children
- With God there is no big or small, just details
- He knows when a sparrow falls, and he numbers the hairs on your head
- But He also knows each star in the sky by name

First, God cares about the tiniest details of life

- He keeps track of the stars in the skies and the rivers that flow to the oceans
- He sets the day of your birth, the day of your death, and he ordains or allows everything that comes to pass in between

Second, he uses everything and wastes nothing

- There are no accidents with God, only incidents
- **Acts 8:37 NLT** 26 As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, “Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza.”

Second, he uses everything and wastes nothing

- 27 So he started out, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the Kandake, the queen of Ethiopia. The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship, 28 and he was now returning. Seated in his carriage, he was reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Second, he uses everything and wastes nothing

- This includes events that seem to us to be senseless tragedies
- **Acts 8:1-2 NIV** 1 On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. 2 Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him.

Third, God's ultimate purpose is to shape his children into the image of Jesus Christ

- **Romans 8:29 NIV** For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Third, God's ultimate purpose is to shape his children into the image of Jesus Christ

- He often uses difficult moments and human tragedies to accomplish that purpose
- He is in charge of:
 - What happens and when it happens
 - How it happens and why it happens
 - Even what happens after it happens

Third, God's ultimate purpose is to shape his children into the image of Jesus Christ

- We're not supposed to understand all this
- We're simply supposed to believe and trust that your loving heavenly Father has got it
- **Psalm 43:5 NLT** Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again—my Savior and my God!

That's what God's providence does for us

- It doesn't answer every question
- It doesn't make our problems go away
- And it doesn't give us an easy road
- But it does tell us that there is a pattern to the seemingly random events of life and that God is designing something beautiful out of that which now seems to be only a chaos of clashing colors

Life is hard—make no mistake about that, but God is good

- Both those statements are true all the time for all of God's children
- Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David, Peter, Paul all went through periods they struggled with the muddy details
- Could not figure it out, ran away, wanted to throw up the hands and scream, "What's the use?"

Life is hard—make no mistake about that, but God is good

- But God was working out something marvelous in their lives they could not see
- Right down to the littlest detail
- He is doing the same thing in each of our lives today

Life is hard—make no mistake about that, but God is good

- Don't forget to look up and keep your eyes on the horizon because God will provide in his time in his way
- God has promised to meet you there
- **John 10:10 NIV** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that YOU may have life, and have it to the full.

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