

## GOD'S PROVIDENCE

Definition: God's constant care for and His absolute rule over all His creation, directing all things to their appointed end for His own glory and for the good of His people.

Before time began God elected some men to be saved to everlasting life<sup>1</sup>. Having so elected these people to be His special people He predestined everything to come to pass in time to affect His election. Having predestined<sup>2</sup> everything to come to pass God created the world (both the physical world and time) to fulfill His purpose. Having created the world and everything in it God now is intimately involved with all His creation as He directs it to its appointed end.

God upholds all things.<sup>3</sup>

God commands all that happens.<sup>4</sup> God controls inanimate creation such as sun, wind, rain, snow, hail, lightning, etc..<sup>5</sup> God controls animals.<sup>6</sup> He controls seemingly "chance" events.<sup>7</sup> God controls the affairs of nations.<sup>8</sup> God controls every aspect of human life.<sup>9</sup> God controls famine, drought, plagues, pestilence, and disasters.<sup>10</sup> God determines the outcome of wars and battles.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See position paper on "Election".

<sup>2</sup> See position paper on "Predestination".

<sup>3</sup> Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:17; Nehemiah 9:6; 2 Peter 3:7; Job 34:12-15; Acts 17:25; Ecclesiastes 12:7

<sup>4</sup> Lamentations 3:37-38

<sup>5</sup> Psalm 148:8; Amos 4:7; Job 28:26; 37:10; Psalm 135:7; 107:25, 29

<sup>6</sup> Matthew 10:29-30

<sup>7</sup> Proverbs 16:33

<sup>8</sup> Job 12:23; Psalm 22:28; 47:7-8; Daniel 4:17, 34-35; Proverbs 21:1; Ezra 1:1; Jeremiah 27:5-7; 28:14; Revelation 17:17

<sup>9</sup> Psalm 139:16; Acts 17:25, 28; Matthew 6:11; Philippians 2:13; 4:19; Proverbs 20:24; Jeremiah 10:23; Daniel 5:23; Psalm 33:14-15

<sup>10</sup> Genesis 41:25-28; Psalm 105:16; Isaiah 45:7; Exodus 9:14; 32:35; Amos 3:6; Haggai 1:10-11; 2:17.

<sup>11</sup> Isaiah 10:5-6; Ezekiel 30:20-30; Psalm 33:16-17; Judges 4:15; Proverbs 21:31

Through His providence, God is fulfilling His purpose for His creation. He rules over all by doing whatever He pleases by working all things according to His counsel and plan.<sup>12</sup>

God does all this for His glory and for the good of His people. (Rom 8:28)

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<sup>12</sup> Psalm 103:19; 115:3; 135:6 Daniel 4:35; Ephesians 1:11