

This We Believe

(Prepared by Ps Ben for GBC Evening Service August 23rd 2020)

Back to The Basics – No 6: God’s Providence

Who is responsible? (Pastor Ben to read some scenarios)

1. What do we mean by God’s Providence?

God is personally at work within his creation to ensure his decree is fulfilled.

See Heb 1:3, Col 1:16-17, Isa 14:27, Ps 135:6-7 or Esther for a long worked example

2 Primary Ways He’s at Work

a. S _____/P _____

See Neh 9:6, Job 34:14-15, Act 17:28, Phil 4:19, 2 Pet 3:7

b. D _____

See Job 37:6-13, Ps 148:8, Rom 8:28, Eph 1:11

3 Main Levels Where He’s at Work

a. N _____

See Job, 38:12, 32, Ps 104:14-30, Matt 5:45, 6:26-29, 10:29,

b. I _____

See Gen 45:5-8, 50:20, 1 Kin 12:15, Job 14:5, Ps 18:34, 107, 139:13-16, Pr 16:4, 19:21, Jer 1:5, 10:23, Eph 2:10

c. H _____

See Ezr 1:1, Job 12:23, Ps 22:28, Pr 21:1, Isa 37:21-29, Dan 4:34-35, Act 17:26, Deu 2:30

2 Things Providence Doesn’t Mean

a. D _____

b. C _____

1 Major Cause of Debate Among Christians

a. F _____

See Romans 9:14-29, Phil 2:12-13

Scriptures in Favour of _____	Scriptures in Favour of _____
Gen 45:4-8, 1 Kin 12:15, Exo 4:21, Act 2:22-23, 4:27-28, Ps 139:16, Eph 1:11	Deu 30:11-20, Mark 1:15, John 3:36, Acts 2:37-40, Rom 10:9, Heb 2:1-3, 3:12, 10:26-31

b. 2 Extremes to avoid



Over-emphasis on Providence
Fatalism
Irresponsibility

Over-emphasis on Human Responsibility
Open Theism
Hyperresponsibility

Other Controversial Issues Raised by Providence

a. The problem of E_____

See James 1:13, 1 John 1:5, Ps 92:15

b. P_____

Why does Providence matter?

a. C_____

b. T_____

c. O_____

Small Group Questions & Prayer:

- What has stood out to you about Providence?

- Can you name 5 good things that have happened to you today?
Were you thankful to God for any of them?

- Have you learned anything new about God today? Or been encouraged afresh by remembering his goodness?
How has this discussion had an effect on how you think about God and his hand in the events in your life?

- How does this discussion of providence encourage you to live a life of spiritual discipline, prayer and obedience?

- Do you have any questions about anything that Pastor Ben covered this evening?

- How might we pray together now in response to all we've heard and talked about this evening?