



The Doctrine of Miracles

Wayne **Grudem** defines **miracle** as "a less common kind of God's activity in which he arouses people's awe and wonder and bears witness to himself."

Providence, as I use the word and as most Christians have used it, is sovereignty in the service of wise purposes. Or you could say providence is wise and purposeful sovereignty.

It is God's *seeing to* everything. Absolutely everything that needs to be done to bring about his purposes, God sees to it that it happens. [Isaiah 46:10](#): "[I declare] the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.'" In other words, "I will see to it." See to it — *pro-videre*. "I will provide. I will see to it that everything works together for the goals that I have for the world." **John Piper**

The providence of God is the working of God's sovereignty to continually uphold, guide, and care for his creation. The providence of God leaves no room for chance or competition between God and another power. God, as the primary cause, causes everything, but this does not remove the ability of creatures to cause or act. Rather, God grants to all creatures their power to act as causes in the world. God works concurrently with His creation to accomplish His purposes. **Gospel Coalition**

If Creation was a unique exercise of divine energy causing the world to be, providence is a continued exercise of that same energy whereby the Creator, according to his own will, (a) keeps all creatures in being, (b) involves himself in all events, and (c) directs all things to their appointed end. The model is of purposive personal management with total "hands-on" control: God is completely in charge of his world. His hand may be hidden, but his rule is absolute. The doctrine of providence teaches Christians that they are never in the grip of blind forces (fortune, chance, luck, fate); all that happens to them is divinely planned, and each event comes as a new summons to trust, obey, and rejoice, knowing that all is for one's spiritual and eternal good (Rom. 8:28)
JI Packer

A. Providence reflects God's attributes of independence, perfection, sovereignty, knowledge, wisdom, purpose, power, justice, goodness, grace

B. Concurrence

C. The problem of evil

- I. The Bible clearly teaches God's providential control over the universe at large, Ps. 103:19; Dan. 4:35; Eph. 1:11;
- II. Over the physical world, Job 37; Pss. 104:14; 135:6; Matt. 5:45;
- III. Over creatures, Ps. 104:21, 28; Matt. 6:26; 10:29
- IV. Over the affairs of nations, Job 12:23; Pss. 22:28; 66:7; Acts 17:26
- V. Over man's birth and lot in life, 1 Sam. 16:1; Ps. 139:16; Isa. 45:5; Gal. 1:15-16
- VI. Over the outward successes and failures of men's lives, Ps. 75:6, 7; Luke 1:52
- VII. Over things seemingly accidental or insignificant, Prov. 16:33; Matt. 10:30
- VIII. In the exposure and punishment of the wicked, Pss. 7:12-13; 11:6
- IX. In the protection of the righteous, Pss. 4:8; 5:12; 63:8; 121:3; Rom. 8:28
- X. In supplying the wants of God's people, Gen. 22:8, 14; Deut. 8:3; Phil. 4:19

XI. In giving answers to prayer, 1 Sam. 1:19; Isa. 20:5, 6; 2 Chron. 33:13; Ps. 65:2; Matt. 7:7; Luke 18:7, 8

XII. **In providing miraculous intervention - 2 Chronicles 20**

Because of God's providence, everything that happens in our lives is either a good gift from our good Father, or something that is meant to work for our good in conforming us to the image of His Son or an opportunity given to us by God to work with Him in advancing His kingdom.