

“God Means It!”

Genesis 50:20b

August 7, 2021

INTRO: Today, I pray, will be the 2nd half to one of the most important theological lessons you will ever learn!

- The ***problem of evil*** and the ***power of providence***

Today's teaching will pave the way to peace for the faith family of God because God's sovereignty is the key that unlocks His door of immeasurable peace. – JDP

Illustration: “The maze & the Messiah” (JDP)

PRAYER

CONTEXT: Last week: ***“God meant it”***

This week: ***“God Means It!”***

God Means It! is illustrated in Joseph's life and injustices... as he points us to the person and promise of Christ & His cross...

BIG IDEA:

Evil is bad but it is good that evil exists.

- R.C. Sproul

PREVIEW:

1. God's **Providence**
2. God's **Promise**
3. God's **Proof**

*God's Word, will, and ways DEFINE "good"
and DESCRIBE true righteousness. - JDP*

TEXT: Genesis 50:20

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God **meant it** for good, **to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.**

This is God's Word... so before we go any further,
read & remember 2 Timothy 3:16-17...

T/S: Last week = KNOW the Truth...
This week = TRUST the **Truth!**

I. PROVIDENCE

Providence is God's sovereignty in action. - JDP

“to bring it about...”

- “to” = intentionality... **PURPOSE**
- “bring it about” = action... **FULFILLMENT**
- “it” = KEY
 - “it” *meant* “evil” in 50:20a
 - “it” means “good” in 50:20b

Now – you can either believe & obey truth in love...

OR

disbelieve & disobey God & His Word

there is no middle road...

*this is no **balance**...*

Read **Romans 8:28** and *don't ever doubt it again!*

Wherever & whenever you don't see the hand and face of God, is by definition, a blind-spot for you. – JDP

You would be blessed to tie in all the all's and absolutes in Scripture when you study God's sovereignty...

VIDEO: *“MacArthur - Sovereignty Application 1”*

T/S: **Truth in love helps lost people!**

- JDP (cf. Ephesians 4:15 & [Romans 10:17](#))

You should never be afraid of truth in love...
whether giving it to others OR the receiving of it yourself.

- JDP

II. PROMISE

*that many people should be
kept alive...*

- *“that”* & *“should be”* = intent/purpose
- *“many people”* = broad appeal/opportunity
- *“kept alive”* = rescued/saved
- *“it”* = intentional saving of many people

This *“it”* is a mirroring & pre-shadowing reflection
of THE Gospel of Jesus, The Christ! - JDP

Illustration: [language development without vowels](#)

Inspiration > Imagination!

Everyone loves Jesus until they learn what He really said. - Platt

If you're still doubting, at this theological fork in the road, you have to come to grips with one of two choices, either you don't know God as well as you think you do... or He's not as good as He claims to be. Which one do you think it is? – JDP

Unrelenting 'Why?' & 'How?' questions are the fuel & folly of the faithless fool's unbelief...

Remember – unbelief is NEVER satisfied! – JDP

VIDEO: *“MacArthur - Sovereignty Application 2”*

Stop apologizing
for your biblical apologetics! – JDP

T/S: Evil's reality reveals... (read [Acts 2:23](#) & [4:27](#))

- God's holiness
- God's justice
- God's sovereignty
- God's power
- God's providence
- God's purposes

- God's **priorities**
- God's **patience**
- God's **wisdom**
- God's **creativeness**
- God's **righteousness**
- God's **wrath**
- God's **mercy**
- God's **forgiveness**
- God's **grace**
- God's **love**
- God's **Gospel** in/thru Jesus Christ!

III. PROOF

as they are today.

- *“as they are today”* = a **proof statement!**
- *“as they are today”* = **evidence** in support of **“it”**
- *“as”* & *“are”* both = active present tense!
- *“they”* & *“today”* both = active & perpetual...
- **TODAY's Parallel Proof:**
 - **CHRIST...** Christ Coming
 - **CROSS...** Christ Crucified
 - **CHURCH...** Christ's Commissioned

“I will build My church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.” - Jesus

“We know God better because of the reality of evil.”
- Dr. Albert Mohler

REVIEW:

1. PROVIDENCE
2. PROMISE
3. PROOF

T/S: C. S. Lewis:

“Heaven will work backwards & turn agony to glory”

We need to realize that we all deserve God's greatest wrath as fallen human beings...
Consequently, when we see what we don't like to see in human history or current events, it ought not bring into question the fairness, goodness, or graciousness of God... - JDP

CLOSE:

**When your wrestling turns to worship
you'll find peace!** - JDP

"For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal" ([2 Corinthians 4:17-18](#)).

Embrace the TENSION that comes with seeing sin
& evil with *eternal, biblical eyes*... and
Stop apologizing for the Almighty! – JDP
(Romans 1:16)

NOTE: God NEVER apologizes for what we find to be distasteful...

God's promises = our guarantees!
Be they for blessings OR wrath...

- **NEVER doubt Almighty God!**

Ultimately, if it's your reality, it's God's will.
– JDP

**The Gospel is all about
turning trouble into triumph!**

– JDP

The Lord is my fortress does not mean you will not know pain, or that you will win every short term battle... -JDP

At the end of the day, you will either “rest under” or “throw off” the blanket of God’s sovereignty. -JDP

Better to question and accept our own fallibility and inability to see and understand God’s will and ways clearly, then to question the inspiration and integrity of Almighty God and His Word. -JDP

***** 1 Corinthians 13:12 *****

For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

PRAYER

WORSHIP:

“Until Grace” --- “Walk By Faith” --- “So Will I”

“God Means It!”

Genesis 50:20b

August 7, 2021

INTRO: Today, I pray, will be the 2nd half to one of the most [important theological lessons you will ever learn!](#)

Illustration: “The maze & the Messiah” (JDP)

- The **problem of evil** and the **power of providence**
- The assumptions associated with sin and the of absolutes attached to God’s sovereignty
- The eternal difference between **theological imagination** and **truth-filled inspiration...**
- ...of **religious feelings** vs. **redemptive facts!**

VIDEO: *“Did God Create Evil?”*

Today’s teaching will pave the way to peace for the faith family of God. - JDP

God’s sovereignty is the key that unlocks His door of peace. - JDP

If you’ll walk with your head up and your eyes open... you’ll see what He/God is doing! - Bobby Carroll Franklin (“country”), IL

Recognize that Jacob wrestled with God, in part, because he did not want to submit to the sovereignty of God... How about you???

- JDP

The prophet's peace came, & still comes from, the promise, power, and presence of the Person of the living God, Jesus the Christ!

- JDP

PRAYER

CONTEXT:

Sermon Series

Bible Cloth

Jacob

Joseph

Genesis 50:16-21

Genesis 50:20 (Macro/MICRO)

Last week: ***"God meant it"***

This week: ***"God Means It!"***

"God Means It! is illustrated in Joseph's life and injustices... as he points us to the Master Exemplifier, Jesus, the crucified Creator, Lord, and Savior - all to inform, inspect, and inspire us in our here and now struggles. - JDP

BIG IDEA:

Last week:

God has a perfect plan for imperfect people! &

Only HE can make sin sHine!

This week:

Evil is bad but it is good that evil exists.

- R.C. Sproul

*God's Word, will, and ways DEFINE "good"
and DESCRIBE true righteousness.* - JDP

PREVIEW:

4. **Providence**
5. **Promise**
6. **Proof**

TEXT: Genesis 50:20

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, **to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.**

- o Last week: Illustration; Explanation; Application
 - Did God create evil?
 - Piper exposition
 - MacArthur exhortation
 - 3 Show And Tell "helps" illustrations:
 - Trusting God's Word
 - The Eternal Circles
 - The Sovereignty Circle

T/S: Last week = KNOW the Truth...
This week = **TRUST** the **Truth!**

IV. PROVIDENCE

“God’s sovereignty is his right and power to do all that he decides to do.” and
Providence is sovereignty in the service of wise purposes. – John Piper

Job 42:2: “I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.”

What is Providence... indeed, all things come not by chance, but by God’s fatherly hand.

How quickly we rush to raise a self-righteous fist while our other hand digs in the cookie jar. “Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?”

(Ezekiel 18:25). – Desiring God

In the same way that your past is a definite part of your present and future, so is your present a providentially defining part of your future and eternity. - JDP

“to bring it about...”

- *“to”* = intentionality... PURPOSE
- *“bring it about”* = action... FULFILLMENT
- *“it”* = KEY
 - *“it” meant “evil”* in 50:20a
 - *“it” means “good”* in 50:20b

This is God’s Word... so before we go any further,
read 2 Timothy 3:16-17...

Now – you can either believe & obey
OR
disbelieve & disobey God & His Word
there is no middle road...
this is no balance...
Get it?

Wherever & whenever you don’t see the hand and face of God, is by definition, a blind-spot for you. – JDP

You need to realize that He is either IN it OR over it EVERY time... that's GOOD NEWS, if you really know the real God of the Bible. - JDP

Remember what [Martin Luther](#) taught us:

- *“Reason is the Devil’s whore!”*
- *“The Devil is God’s devil.”*

Read [Romans 8:28](#) and *don’t ever doubt it again!*

You would be blessed to tie in all the all’s and all the other forms of absolutes in Scripture when you study God’s sovereignty...

Satan’s poison providentially reveals our Savior’s promise! - JDP

VIDEO: *“MacArthur - Sovereignty Application 1”*

T/S: **Stop apologizing for your biblical apologetics!** - JDP

You should never be afraid of truth in love...
be it in its giving to others OR the receiving of it yourself.

– JDP

Truth in love helps lost people!

- JDP (cf. Ephesians 4:15)

V. PROMISE

*that many people should be
kept alive...*

Illustration: language development without vowels

- *“that”* & *“should be”* = intent/purpose
- *“many people”* = broad appeal/opportunity
- *“kept alive”* = rescued/saved
- *“it”* = intentional saving of many people

This *“it”* is a mirroring & pre-shadowing reflection
of THE Gospel of Jesus, The Christ! - JDP

*Press into the Word of God...
so that the God of The Word will press into you!* - JDP

VIDEO: *“MacArthur - Sovereignty Application 2”*

"Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God,' for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one" (James 1:13).

Unrelenting 'Why?' & 'How?' questions are the fuel & folly of the faithless fool's unbelief...

Remember – unbelief is NEVER satisfied! - JDP

T/S: The mind of man is naturally full of prejudices against divine truth. —Jonathan Edwards

At this theological fork in the road, you have to come to grips with one of two choices, either you don't know God as well as you think you do... or He's not as good as He claims to be. – JDP

T/S: Evil's reality reveals... (read [Acts 2:23](#) & [4:27](#))

- God's holiness
- God's justice
- God's sovereignty
- God's power
- God's providence
- God's purposes
- God's priorities
- God's patience

- God's wisdom
- God's creativeness
- God's righteousness
- God's wrath
- God's mercy
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- God's love
- God's Gospel in/thru Jesus Christ!

VI. PROOF

as they are today.

- *“as they are today”* = a **proof statement!**
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- **Parallel Proof:**
 - **CHRIST...** Christ Coming
 - **CROSS...** Christ Crucified
 - **CHURCH...** Christ's Commissioned

“I will build My church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.” - Jesus

*Don't make small what God makes big...
and don't make big what God calls small.* - JDP

Inspiration > Imagination!

Everyone loves Jesus until they learn what He really said. - Platt

God gets the glory for ALL that is good... while responsibility for the sinful application of evil falls fully on the shoulders of Satan and sinners – both of whom revealed their pride-filled hearts and subsequent need for a Savior. (*“knife illustration”*)

"For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!" (Luke 22:22).

The cross speaks to our theology of suffering in at least two ways. First, it shows us that God can will something to happen that he opposes. Proverbs 6:16-17 tells us that *God hates "hands that shed innocent blood."* And yet he sent his Son to suffer precisely that fate. Is this a mystery? Absolutely. But it is not nonsense. We can look at evil and with no contradiction say, "This is wrong, and God has willed that it take place." Listen to how Peter describes the crucifixion: *"This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men"* (Acts 2:23, emphasis mine).

“We know God better because of the reality of evil.”

- Dr. Albert Mohler

- Adam & Eve knew God as Creator in the Garden... we know Him as both Creator & Redeemer!
- Job knew God better on the other side of his tragedies...
- Jesus told the disciples it would be better for them if He left them & sent the Holy Spirit to help His followers

REVIEW:

4. PROVIDENCE
5. PROMISE
6. PROOF

T/S: *C. S. Lewis writes in The Great Divorce, "They say of some temporal suffering, 'No future bliss can make up for it,' not knowing that Heaven, once attained, will work backwards and turn even that agony into a glory."*

We need to realize that we all deserve God's greatest wrath as fallen human beings... Consequently, when we see what we don't like to see in human history or current events, it ought not bring into question the fairness, goodness, or graciousness of God. No! Rather, when properly aligned and calibrated by God's Word, the only valid question is, why did it take so long for Almighty God to end His patient and merciful withholding of what the sin-filled humans so deeply deserved. - JDP

CLOSE:

None of this is, or will be, a problem if you will want the glory of God above all things... and if you will learn, love, live & trust His Word, will, & ways above ALL else. - JDP

When your wrestling turns to worship you'll find peace! - JDP

"For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal" ([2 Corinthians 4:17-18](#)).

Embrace the TENSION that comes with seeing sin & evil with eternal eyes... as 2-sided spiritual coins:

- Flesh & Faith
- Temporary & Eternal
- Broken Garden & Gospel birthed
- Visible & Invisible
- Viscous & Victorious
- Sin-sation & Sanctification

Stop apologizing for the Almighty! - JDP

(Romans 1:16)

NOTE: God NEVER apologizes for what we find to be distasteful... He NEVER even allows for contemplating His message, methods, Messiah, or mission. No! Instead, He clarifies, speaks definitively & directly, then instructs His followers to faithfully do the same!

- Matthew 28:18-20
- Acts 1:8
- Mark 16:15
- John 20:21
- Ephesians 6:10-20
- NOTE: this is not new to the N.T.
- Genesis 1:27-28
- Noah to the wicked mockers
- Moses to Pharaoh, Kora, Israelites
- Deuteronomy 29:29!
- David to Goliath
- Nathan to David
- Prophets to ALL the people

MOST IMPORTANT:

- God's promises = our guarantees!

Be they for blessings

OR

Be they for **judgment** & wrath

- **NEVER doubt Almighty God!**
- Christ proved His passion and love on the cross...

- He proved His power/Lordship at the resurrection!
- **Don't mess** with **The Messiah!** (Hebrews 1:1-5; 10:32; 12:1-2)

Ultimately, if it's your reality, it's God's will.

- JDP

The Gospel is all about turning trouble into triumph!

- JDP

Biblical peace is the supernaturally-empowered, Gospel-promised, & spiritual-fruit of biblical belief. - JDP

Biblical, Spirit-empowered FAITH is the peace-planting translator of God's eternal truth in love. - JDP

Right-hearted, 'Yes, Lord!,' faithful obedience... is the loving lubricant that Christians add to personally activate God's power & promise of perpetual peace... peace that passes understanding. Amen & AMEN! - JDP

The Lord is my fortress does not mean you will not know pain, or that you will win every short term battle... No. instead, it means you CAN be a portrait of divine peace... BECAUSE... you know and trust the sovereign and providential, all-Omni God whose promise, power, potential, purpose, AND presence FILL and DEFINE you! - JDP

Do you have faith in the evil that controls small “g” gods.... OR will you walk by faith in the One true and living, capital “G” God of the Bible who was, is, and will always BE sovereign and in total control over ALL things, especially evil? - JDP

Jesus the Christ is The ALL-Omni God! - JDP

At the end of the day, you will either “rest under” or “throw off” the blanket of God’s sovereignty. - JDP

Better to question and accept our own inability to see and understand clearly then to question the inspiration and integrity of God and His Word. - JDP

***** 1 Corinthians 13:12 *****

For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

PRAYER

WORSHIP: *“Until Grace” --- “Walk By Faith” --- “So Will I”*

Research Notes:

[Desiring God.org](http://DesiringGod.org)

OCTOBER 18, 2011

Seven Things the Bible Says About Evil

Article by

Johnathon Bowers

Guest Contributor

How can we reconcile God's sweeping control over creation with the existence of such horrors as cancer, famine, genocide, sexual abuse, tsunamis, and terrorism? Voltaire sums up the issue nicely in his "Poem on the Lisbon Disaster," written after the devastating Lisbon earthquake of 1755:

*Ill could not from a perfect being spring,
Nor from another, since God's sovereign king.*

His point is that since God is good, he can't properly be the source of evil. Likewise, if God is all-powerful, no one else can thwart his intentions. So we're stuck, it seems. Who's to blame for the suffering we experience? Though we lack the space here for an extended discussion, let's consider seven biblical affirmations.

1. Evil is real.

That is to say, we distort the Bible and do ourselves a profound disservice by minimizing the existence of suffering. God invites us to acknowledge our pain. The Psalmist wrote, "I believed, even when I spoke, 'I am greatly afflicted'" ([Psalm 116:10](#)).

2. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

In some ways, talking about a "problem of evil" is a false start. A better quandary to start with would be the problem of sin. How quickly we rush to raise a self-righteous fist while our other hand digs in the cookie jar. "Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?" ([Ezekiel 18:25](#)).

3. God is good.

Whatever we say about God's sovereignty over evil (and say we will; see below), we must never imply that God is corrupt, that he somehow nurses a dark side. "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God,' for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one" ([James 1:13](#)).

4. God ordains all things that come to pass, including evil.

God does whatever he pleases ([Psalm 135:6](#)). To be sure, this means he clothes lilies and feeds birds ([Matthew 6:26, 28](#)). But he also makes lightning ([Psalm 135:7](#)). He strikes down firstborn children and kills mighty kings ([Psalm 135:8](#)). Our God holds sway over the good, the bad, and the ugly. "I form

light and create darkness," he says. "I make well-being and create calamity, I am the LORD, who does all these things" (Isaiah 45:7).

5. Man is responsible for his actions.

Lest we fall into fatalism, we should remember that God's sovereignty never excuses wrongdoing. *When a man commits murder, the blood is on his hands. "For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!" (Luke 22:22).*

6. God did not spare his own Son.

The cross speaks to our theology of suffering in at least two ways. First, it shows us that God can will something to happen that he opposes. Proverbs 6:16-17 tells us that *God hates "hands that shed innocent blood."* And yet he sent his Son to suffer precisely that fate. Is this a mystery? Absolutely. But it is not nonsense. We can look at evil and with no contradiction say, "This is wrong, and God has willed that it take place." Listen to how Peter describes the crucifixion: *"This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men"* (Acts 2:23, emphasis mine).

Second, the cross demonstrates that God regards our affliction not as something strange to the palette, but as a cup he has drunk to the dregs. By giving up his own Son, God entered into our pain. He knows what it's like to suffer loss. But he also did more. By putting his Son to grief, God turned grief on its head. *"But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our*

iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed" ([Isaiah 53:5](#)). This brings us to the final point.

7. Heaven works backwards.

C. S. Lewis writes in [The Great Divorce](#), "They say of some temporal suffering, 'No future bliss can make up for it,' not knowing that Heaven, once attained, will work backwards and turn even that agony into a glory."

Lewis is not being novel here. He is simply restating what Christians have hoped in for centuries, [the promise that gives all our suffering purpose](#): *"For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal" ([2 Corinthians 4:17-18](#)).*

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[Johnathon Bowers](#) ([@johnathonbowers](#)) is a PhD candidate in Christian philosophy at [The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary](#) in Louisville, Kentucky.

[Interview with John Piper](#)

Founder & Teacher, [desiringGod.org](#)

Audio Transcript

This summer, you, Pastor John, finished up a book on the providence of God, a six-hundred-page book coming out in a little over a year from now. We talked about it recently in [episode 1371](#). Sometimes I say it's a book about the sovereignty of God, which leads to a question from Massiel in the Dominican Republic.

“Hello, Pastor John! I was looking for definitions on the sovereignty of God and the providence of God, and couldn't really find one that would make me understand the difference between the two terms. Could you please explain it, Pastor John? Are they synonyms? How would you define each glorious truth?”

Reality in High Definition

That's an excellent question, and I will answer very specifically, in just a moment, the very question that was asked. But first, it really is important to say a few words about definitions, and specifically definitions about words that are not used in the Bible. *Providence* is not a word in the English Bible. In that sense, it is like the words *Bible*, *biblical*, *Trinity*, *discipleship*, *evangelism*, *exposition*, *counseling*, *ethics*, *politics*, *charismatics*.

“God's sovereignty is his right and power to do all that he decides to do.”

None of those words is in the Bible, which shows that the reality that words point to is more important than the words themselves, even though the words are precious and indispensable — and in this case with the Bible, inspired and God-given. They are God's inspired words, but they are pointing to reality. And that reality may be so woven into the Scriptures that it's helpful to have a word that pulls the threads of reality together — a word that may not be in the Bible itself.

Now, what's the implication of that for definitions that I'm being asked for? Well, since *providence* is not used in a specific biblical text, there's no biblical governor on its definition, its meaning. We can't say, "The Bible defines *providence* this way." We could only say that if the Bible actually used the word *providence*.

Whenever you ask, "What does [blank] mean?" What does *providence* mean? What does *justification* mean? What does *faith* mean? Whenever you ask what anything means, there has to be a *meaner* — one who means — if the meaning is going to have any validity, so that you can say it means this and not that. So, if the *meaner* is not the Bible writers, then when I use the word *providence*, I must assign a meaning. I'm the *meaner*, and that's what I do in the first chapter of my book on providence. I don't assign it an arbitrary meaning, I hope. If you do that, nobody will understand you. You don't have any shared meaning with people because you've chosen a meaning that's just so far off the charts it doesn't make any sense to anybody. So, I try to stay close to what other *meaners* have meant by the word in church history. But I do choose the meaning.

Now, you can see what that implies when we are trying to talk about the biblical view of providence, since the Bible doesn't use the word. It implies that the issue before us — in those conversations about the meaning of providence and in my book — is not the meaning of the word *providence*. I choose a meaning to use in my book, and I will choose one here because you asked me to. The issue is this: Is the reality, which I see in the Bible and call *providence*, really there? That's the issue. Let me say it again: Is the reality, which I see and describe in my book, and which I call *providence*, really there in the Bible?

There's no point in quibbling whether the word *providence* is the best word for the reality. That's relatively unimportant. The all-important thing is whether there is a reality in the Bible — which means there is a reality in the universe — that corresponds to my description of the goal, nature, and extent of God's providence.

All-Powerful God, All-Good Provider

Here are my answers to your question, Massiel: no, sovereignty and providence are not the same. God's sovereignty is his right and power to do all that he decides to do. Job 42:2: "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted." But notice that nothing in that definition of sovereignty refers to God's wisdom or God's plans. It's just right and power: you have the right and you have the power to do what you decide to do. When he decides to do a thing, he does it, and no one can stop him. That's *sovereignty*. **So, to make sovereignty a Christian concept, not just a philosophical one, we have to bring in other things we know about God from the Bible, like wisdom and justice and righteousness and grace.**

Providence, however, includes what sovereignty doesn't. *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 & purposeful sovereignty.

Since his purpose is so central to his providence, I spend a hundred and fifty pages or so clarifying what the Bible says God's ultimate purpose is.

It's not very helpful to try to nail down the meaning of a word like *providence* by picking apart its etymology — the history of its pieces, like *pro-vidence*. Because the Latin behind *pro-videre* or *-videre* is ambiguous. It can mean "to foresee" or "to see toward." And we have an idiom in English, "see to that." That's an interesting idiom, isn't it? What does it mean? It means, "take the steps to make sure it happens."

“Absolutely everything that needs to be done to bring about his purposes, God sees to it that it happens.”

In fact, I think that is one of the most helpful paraphrases of God’s acts of providence. 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 — *provide*. “I will provide. I will see to it that everything works together for the goals that I have for the world.”

From His Fatherly Hand

Let me close with one example from history that I think is so beautiful. This is...

Question 27 of the Heidelberg Catechism. The date on that is 1563.

Question:

What do you understand by the providence of God?

Answer:

The almighty, everywhere present power of God, whereby, as it were, by his hand, he still upholds heaven and earth with all creatures and so governs them that herbs and grass, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, meat & drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, indeed, all things come not by chance, but by his fatherly hand.

That's a good summary of God's providence: wise and purposeful sovereignty.

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Genesis 50:20 (cf. Romans 8:28)

12 Views on: "God has a plan."

- Orthodox (reformed)
- Libertarian (free will)
- Works-acceptance (Catholic)
- Moralism
- Naturalism (mom earth, ying/yang)
- Process theology
- Open theology
- Agnostic
- Atheist
- Pantheistic
- Syncretism
- Individualism (you are your own g)

Big Idea.

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. Genesis 50:20

*** Define & do a DEEP dive into “Divine Sovereignty”
- in the context of “providential evil.” ***

- See Creator/Creation/Corruption

Types of EVIL:

- Natural (Calamities)
- Moral/Personal
- Supernatural (Satan/Demons)
- Eternal (Hell)
- Providential (“all of the above”)

We need to realize that we all deserve God's greatest wrath as fallen human beings...
Consequently, when we see what we don't like to see in human history or current events, it ought not bring into question the fairness, goodness, or

graciousness of God. No! Rather, when properly aligned and calibrated by God's Word, the only valid question is, why did it take so long for Almighty God to end His patient and merciful withholding of what the sin-filled humans so deeply deserved. - JDP

God's sovereignty & providence are fate's forever fertilizer. - JDP

*** Genesis 45:7-8

*** Romans 3:5

*** Romans 9:22

See dangers, in the context of physical blindness (cf. Scripture), of emotional & spiritual myopia!

Osmosis is overrated!

Turning trouble into triumph! = Gospel!

The mind of man is naturally full of prejudices against divine truth. —Jonathan Edwards

Where DONT you see the face and hand and providence of God???

You need to realize that He is either IN it OR over it EVERY time... that's GOOD NEWS, when you really

know the real God of the Bible - whether you realize, accept, and LIKE it or not. - JDP

Where was/is God when... list examples (both biblical and then personal - making sure to NEVER impugne God as being responsible for sin).

- Good
- Bad
- Bad to good...

Biblical peace is the supernaturally promised, spiritual fruit of biblical belief. - JDP

Biblical, Spirit-empowered FAITH is the peace-planting translator of God's eternal truth in love. - JDP

Right-hearted, 'Yes, Lord!' faithful obedience... is the loving lubricant that Christians add to personally activate God's power & promise of perpetual peace... peace that passes understanding. Amen & AMEN! - JDP

Rotten peace is rotten fruit! - JDP

A lack of peace is sin. - JDP

- This is unbelief of Rom. 8:28

The Lord is my fortress does not mean you will not know pain, or that you will win every short term battle... No. instead, it means you CAN be a portrait of divine peace... BECAUSE... you know and trust the sovereign and providential, all-Omni God whose promise, power, potential, purpose, AND presence FILL and DEFINE you! - JDP