

The Purpose Of Providence!
Isaiah 45:1-10

Introduction:

1. What Is Providence?
 - The Bible Clearly Teaches The “Providence” Of God!
 - And God’s Providence Ought To Be A Source Of Great Encouragement & Comfort To Each Of Us!
 - But What Exactly Is The Providence Of God? What Does It Mean?
2. This Is Another Important Theological Term That We Often Use But Fail To Really Understand Its Meaning & Importance!
 - In Isaiah 44:21-28, We Looked At The Meaning Of: “Redemption!”
 - Here, In Isaiah 45:1-10, We Will Look At The Meaning & Purpose Of: “Providence!”
 - When We Understand What Providence Is & What Providence Means, We Will Be Able To Fulfill The Purposes That God Has For His Providence!
 - In Order To Increase Our Understanding Of God’s Providence, We Will Look At Three Things:
 - 1st - Look At The Plan Of God’s Providence!
 - 2nd - Look At The Panorama Of God’s Providence!
 - 3rd - Look At The Purposes Of God’s Providence!

1. Look At The Plan Of God’s Providence!

- What Is The Definition Of Providence?
 - A Simple Definition Is: “Divine Direction!”
 - But, This Direction Is Not Just Seeing What Is Going To Happen!
 - **IE:** Like When A Police Officer “Directs” Traffic! He Would Like To Think That He Is In Control, But Really, Anything Can Happen!
 - Rather, This Direction Is An Actual Control Of What Does Happen!
 - **IE:** Like When A Little Boy “Directs” Traffic With His Matchbox Cars! The Only Thing That Can Happen Is What He Wants To Happen!
 - “Providence Is The . . . Outworking Of God’s Sovereignty Whereby All Events Are Directed . . . To Bring About Those Purposes Of Glory And Good For Which The Universe Was Made!” (NDT)
- Providence Means That:
 - God Has A Reason For His Direction!
 - Isaiah 46:9-10 - “Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure!”
 - Ephesians 1:11 - “In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will!”
 - His Reasons May Not All Be Revealed!
 - His Reasons May Not All Be Understood!
 - But He Has His Reasons For Directing His Creation The Way He Does!
 - And We Can Be Certain That His Reasons Are Good Because “The Lord Is Good!”
 - God Has Objects Of His Direction!
 - He Directs Nature!
 - Matthew 5:45 - “For he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust!”
 - He Directs Animals!
 - Psalm 104:21 - “The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God!”
 - He Directs Man!
 - Daniel 2:21 - “And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding!”

- Psalm 31:15 - "My times are in thy hand!" (David)
- In Other Words, There Is Nothing That Is Outside Of The Providence & Divine Direction Of God!
- God Has An End For His Direction!
 - Revelation 4:11 - "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created!"
- This Brief Survey Of The Meaning Of God's Providence Will Set The Stage For Us As We Explore Tonight Isaiah 45:1-10!
 - Because In This Passage, We Discover That There Are Great Purposes For His Providence!
 - Read Passage!

* Next, Lets:

2. Look At The Panorama Of God's Providence!

- **IE:** Have You Ever Tried To Take A Panoramic Picture? You Were So Enthralled By The Scenery You Were Looking At, That Just One Picture Screen Couldn't Do It Justice – You Wanted To Capture The Whole Scene As You Saw It! So You Try To Splice Your Pictures Together To Get The Whole, Panoramic View!
 - In Isaiah 45:1-10, We Get The Panoramic View Of God's Providence!
 - We See In An Unbroken View All That Is Subject To God's Divine Direction!
 - Let's Look At How The Panorama Of God's Providence Unfolds!
 - We See God's Providence Over:
 - Those Who Are Individuals!
 - 45:1 - "Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden!"
 - Remember, Cyrus Is A Heathen King Who Won't Come Onto The Scene For Another 100 Years! Yet God Is Addressing Him By Name & Reveals What God Will Do Through Him At That Time!
 - God Divinely Directs Every Person's Presence!
 - He Is In Control Of Who Lives & Who Dies As Well As When You Live & When You Die!
 - God Divinely Directs Every Person's Performance!
 - 45:1 - "To subdue nations before **him**; and **I** will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut!"
 - God Divinely Directs Every Person's Progress!
 - 45:2 - "**I** will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: **I** will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron!"
 - God Divinely Directs Every Person's Power!
 - 45:3 - "And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel!"
 - We See God's Providence Over:
 - Those Who Are Independent – Nations!
 - 45:1 - "To subdue **nations** before him; and I will loose the loins of **kings**, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut!"
 - We See God's Providence Over:
 - Those Who Are Ignorant – Unbelievers!
 - 45:4-5 - "For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: **I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.** 5 I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: **I girded thee, though thou hast not known me!**"
 - **IE:** Have You Ever Received Help Without Knowing About It? Fortville's Cash Counter!
 - We See God's Providence Over:
 - That Which Is Inanimate – Nature!
 - 45:7a - "I form the light, and create darkness!"
 - 45:8 - "Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness:

let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the LORD have created it!”

- We See God’s Providence Over:
 - That Which Is Immaterial!
 - 45:7b - “I make peace, and create evil [calamity]: I the LORD do all these things!”
 - This Does Not Make God The Author Of Sin, But The Divine Director Of The Effects Of Sin!
- There Is Absolutely Nothing That Is Outside Of The Providence & Divine Direction Of God!

* Now, We Will:

3. Look At The Purposes Of God’s Providence!

- As We Looked At Earlier, God Has A Reason For Why & How He Directs All That He Has Created!
 - His Reasons May Not All Be Revealed!
 - His Reasons May Not All Be Understood!
 - But He Does Reveal Some Reasons That We Can Understand, So That We Will Be Able To Fulfill The Purposes That God Has For His Providence!
- His Providence Is For The Praise Of His Name!
 - 45:3 - “And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, *that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel!*”
 - This Is The Primary Purpose Of Creation & Providence – So That God Will Be Known & So That His Name Will Be Praised!
 - Psalm 148:7-13 - “Praise the LORD from the earth, ye dragons, and all deeps: 8 Fire, and hail; snow, and vapour; stormy wind fulfilling his word: 9 Mountains, and all hills; fruitful trees, and all cedars: 10 Beasts, and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl: 11 Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of the earth: 12 Both young men, and maidens; old men, and children: 13 Let them praise the name of the LORD: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven!”
 - This Reveals What The Purpose Of Our Life Is!
- His Providence Is For The Protection Of His People!
 - 45:4 - “*For Jacob my servant’s sake, and Israel mine elect*, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me!”
 - Throughout History The Jewish Race Has Been Persecuted With The Goal Of Annihilation!
 - The Nazi Holocaust, In Which Around 6 Million Jews Were Killed, Was Only The Most Recent Of A Long History Of Extermination Attempts!
 - And Since The Time Of Jesus Christ, His Church Has Also Been Persecuted With The Goal Of Annihilation!
 - The Afghani Christian, Abdul Rahman, Who This Last Month Was Arrested For His Faith In Christ & Who Can Even Be Executed For His Faith, Is Only The Most Recent Of A Long History Of Extermination Attempts!
 - So, How Has The Jewish Nation & The Christian Church Lasted So Long?
 - Some Would Say It Is Historical Coincidence!
 - But God’s Word Reveals That It Is Historical Providence!
 - God Is Working In The World To Preserve & Protect The People He Came To Save!
 - What A Tremendous Source Of Encouragement, Comfort & Strength This Ought To Be For You & Me!
 - Romans 8:28 - “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose!”
- His Providence Is For The Perception Of His Nature!
 - 45:5-6 - “I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me! 6 That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else!”
 - The More We Look At God’s Providence, The More We Will Know Of Him!
 - The More We Share Of God’s Providence, The More Others Will Know Of Him!
 - This Should Be A Source Of Motivation For Us To Testify Of God’s Work & Grace In Our Lives!

- His Providence Is For The Progress Of His Righteousness!
 - 45:8 - “Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the LORD have created it!”
 - “The Sovereign Power That Brought Heaven And Earth Into Existence Now Is Employed In Brining About The Abundance Of Righteousness And Salvation!” (Edward Young)
 - This Beautiful Poetic Picture Is One Of Spiritual Fruitfulness!
 - This Should Be A Source Of Hope For Us!
 - Because Even Though It Seems Like Darkness Is Overwhelming Us In Our Lives, A Brighter Day Is Emerging When A Flood Of Righteousness & Salvation Will Overtake This World – When The Lord Jesus Christ Himself Reigns As King!
- His Providence Is For The Preservation Of His Character!
 - 45:9-10 - “Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherd of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands? 10 Woe unto him that saith unto his father, What begettest thou? or to the woman, What hast thou brought forth?”
 - His Providence Proves That He Alone Rules & Reigns Over The Affairs Of His Creation!
 - And We Should Not “Strive” Or Debate With God!
 - As Bob Jones, Sr. Once Said: “You Can’t Box With God – ‘Cause Your Arms Are Too Short!”
 - This Should Humble Us To The Point That We Submit Our Hearts & Lives To Him & His Control Completely!

Conclusion:

1. The Bible Clearly Teaches In The “Providence” Of God!
 - And God’s Providence Ought To Be A Source Of Great Encouragement & Comfort To Each Of Us!
 - Especially When You Consider That There Is Absolutely Nothing That Is Outside Of The Providence & Divine Direction Of God!
 - And When You Consider That You Receive Great Blessings From The Purposes Of His Providence & Divine Direction!
2. Now That We Have Looked At God’s Providence & Divine Direction:
 - Will You Submit To His Providence In Your Heart?
 - Cyrus Was One Of The Objects Of God’s Divine Control:
 - But He Never Submitted & Never Came To Know The Lord!
 - You Too Are One Of The Objects Of God’s Divine Control:
 - Whether You Believe It Or Not – Whether You Like It Or Not!
 - Do Not Respond Like Cyrus!
 - Instead, Submit To His Providence & You Will Be Abundantly Blessed As God’s Providence Unfolds!

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