

## THE GREAT GLOBAL GOVERNMENT

May 31, 2020

Daniel 4:13-35

“I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?” Daniel 4:34b, 35

Who rules this world? In the Garden of Eden, Satan sought dominion over mankind by seducing him to heed his word. This was Satan’s motivation: “I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: . . . I will be like the most High” (Isaiah 14:13, 14). God intervened in Eden with the promise of a Savior who would crush Satan’s head (Genesis 3:15).

In Noah’s era, “God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence . . . for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth” (Genesis 6:5, 11, 12). Clearly, mankind was under satanic influence, but God overruled with the great flood.

At the tower of Babel, man thought he could establish a one-world system of human dominion. God overruled man’s aspirations, and scattered mankind upon the earth (Genesis 11). Is today’s distancing, socially and nationally, a God-wrought intervention of the same order as the scattering at Babel; and for the same reason?

Throughout history men have risen to power, never satisfied with what they have, always wanting to exert more control over more people. Countless men have aspired to become king of the world.

Rome, the last of the ancient world empires, declined and was arguably replaced by the world-wide Roman ecclesiastical network, its emperor-pope and its lust for power. The Roman church proclaimed itself ruler over all things temporal and spiritual, and has never repudiated that claim. Its papal system continues expansive influence-peddling among nations, and aspires for more.

Hitler had his designs for dominion, Stalin had his, Mao had his. Many lesser despots have manifested personal ambitious and agendas. Today, the president of the USA is deemed the most powerful man on earth. Power-lusting men and women crave the office of power, and those in power will indulge manifold evils in the effort to hold, expand and enlarge that power.

In all of this, observe that “The whole world lieth in wickedness” (i.e., “in the wicked one”) (I John 5:19). “The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them (II Corinthians 4:4). He is “the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:2). “Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (I Peter 5:8). His ultimate purpose is unchanged: “I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will be like the most High” (Isaiah 14:13, 14).

Death, disease, suffering, famine, war, genocide, natural disasters, crime—all of these are the result of sin’s curse, brought on by Satan’s ambition for dominion. Yet in all of these, more is happening than we may initially acknowledge.

Ruling over all is the sovereign providence of almighty, just, gracious and all-knowing God, who is working all things after the council of His own will.

*“God the great Creator of all things does uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest even to the least, by His most wise and holy providence, according to His infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of His own will, to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy.*

*“The almighty power, unsearchable wisdom, and infinite goodness of God so far manifest themselves in His providence, that it extends itself even to the first fall, and all other sins of angels and men; and that not by a bare permission, but such as has joined with it a most wise and powerful bounding, and otherwise ordering, and governing of them, in a manifold dispensation, to His own holy ends; yet so, as the sinfulness thereof proceeds only from the creature, and not from God, who, being most holy and righteous, neither is nor can be the author or approver of sin.”*

(Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 5: Of Providence; Articles 1 & 4)

Thus we learn from the whole of Scripture that God rules over all, that not a sparrow falls without His knowledge and control of the circumstances. What does the truth of God’s sovereign providence mean to us?

## **APPLICATIONS**

**1. Let us rest in God, whose sovereign rule is working every detail out to the eternal good of His people and to the eternal glory of His name.**

This must have been the mind of Joseph as he suffered at his brothers’ hand and Potiphar’s

This must have been Paul's and Silas' mind in the prison in Philippi

This was Paul's mind when he wrote, "the things which have happened unto me have fallen out rather to the furtherance of the gospel."

**2. Rest in God includes submission to His sovereign rule, His holy will and His perfect purpose. We must not resist, nor grumble against God, but in everything give thanks.**

This was Daniel's mind when he requested not to eat the king's cuisine, but vegetables.

This was Joseph's mind when he said, "Ye meant it for evil, but God meant it for good."

This is why we are admonished, "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing, In everything give thanks" for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

(I Thessalonians 5:14-26)

**3. Submission to His sovereign rule, His will and His purpose necessitates taking His Word as true, absolute, inerrant and sufficient for all my needs.**

Embrace entirely the Word of God for every circumstance, every plan, every purpose and every thought. "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5, 6)