

PROVIDENCE IS THE HAND OF GOD / J. VERNON MCGEE

- **What is providence?** Here's a theological definition: Providence is the means by which God directs all things — both animate and inanimate, seen and unseen, good and evil — toward a worthy purpose, which means His will must finally prevail.
- God brought together **a little baby's cry** and **a woman's heart** down by the River Nile when Pharaoh's daughter went to bathe. The Lord pinched little Moses and he let out a yell. The cry reached the heart of the princess, **and God used it to change the destiny of a people.** That was **providence.** That was **the hand of God.**
- *From Edited Messages on Esther by Dr. J. Vernon McGee [http://www.oneplace.com/ministries/thru-the-bible-with-j-vernon-mcgee/read/articles/providence-is-the-hand-of-god-11044.html]*

PROVIDENCE IN SCRIPTURE ...

- (Isaiah 46:8–11 ESV) **Remember this and stand firm**, recall it to mind, you transgressors, remember the former things of old; for **I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me**, declaring 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,”** calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; **I have purposed, and I will do it.**
- (Ephesians 1:11–12 ESV) In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined **according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will**, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.
- (Romans 8:27–28 ESV) And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints **according to the will of God.** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, **for those who are called according to his purpose.**

PROVIDENCE DEFINED

- The word "provide" (from Latin providere) means etymologically "to foresee." The corresponding Greek word, pronoia, means "forethought." Forethought and foresight imply a future end, a goal and a definite purpose and plan for attaining that end. **The doctrine of final ends is a doctrine of final causes, and means that that which is last in realization and attainment is first in mind and thought.** The most essential attribute of rational beings is that they act with reference to an end; that they act not only with thought but with forethought.
 - While all rational beings exercise a providence proportioned to their powers, yet it is only when the word is used with reference to the Divine Being who is possessed of infinite knowledge and power that it takes on its real and true significance. The doctrine of divine providence, therefore, has reference to that preservation care and government which God exercises over all things that He has created **in order they may accomplish the ends for which they were created.**
 - "Providence is the most comprehensive term in the language of theology. It is the background of all the several departments of religious truth, a background mysterious in its commingled brightness and darkness. It penetrates and fills the whole compass of the relations of man with his Maker. It connects the unseen God with the visible creation, and the visible creation with the work of redemption, and redemption with personal salvation, and personal salvation with the end of all things. **It carries our thoughts back to the supreme purpose which was in the beginning with God, and forward to the foreseen end and consummation of all things, while it includes between these the whole infinite variety of the dealings of God with man**" (*W. B. Pope, Compendium of Christian Theology, I, 456*). [<http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/providence-1/>]
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- (Exodus 15:11 ESV) Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?
 - (Isaiah 6:3 ESV) And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"