

8. Providence

BC 13

God's Providence

Providence = God's power by which He upholds & governs all things according to His will.

Upholds all things by His word [Heb. 1:3; Ps. 148:6]

Directs all things, executing His counsel [LD 9; Ps. 29:5-9; Pr. 16:9]

Regarding the "laws of nature"

The invisible God is the one who has appointed the ordinances [Jer. 33:25-26].

He's the one who causes the wind to blow, etc. [Ps. 147:18].

Christ & God's providence

God governs all things by Jesus Christ [LD 19]

The truth of God's providence comforts us when we're afflicted.

Whatever evils God sends upon us He will turn to our advantage.

[LD 9; Rom. 8:28-30; I Peter 1:7; II Cor. 4:15-18]

Able & willing [LD 9]

God's Providence & Evil

Proof that even sin takes place according to what God determined

Determined the cross [Luke 22:22; Acts 2:23; 4:27-28]

Raised up Pharaoh & hardened his heart [Ex. 4:21]

Sends strong delusion [II Th. 2:11]

Put a lying spirit in the mouth of false prophets [I Kings 22:19-23]

The word [evil] is used in more than one sense.

It is commonly used to refer to that which is sinful.

It is also used to refer to that which would tend to cause injury, pain, or sorrow.

Evil beasts [Lev. 26:6; Ezek. 34:25]

Evil diseases [Dt. 7:15]

Proof that God sends evils.

He sends "the evil arrows of famine" [Ezek. 5:16-17]

He sends evil spirits [Jdg. 9:23]

He always does His good pleasure [Ps. 115:3; 33:9-11; Is. 46:9-10].

Light of nature

That they might be without excuse [Canons 3&4:4]

Good things to the ungodly

Set in slippery places [Ps. 73:12-18; Ps. 92:7]