

God's Sovereign Providence

Current Events:

Harvey, Katrina, Irma, etc..Japanese Tsunami

Psalm 148:8Ps 148:8 Fire, and hail; snow, and vapour; stormy wind fulfilling his word:

Isa 45:7 I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.

Ps 107:25 For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof.

Nahum 1:3 The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the **LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm**, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.

Now, let's look at Amos chapter 4.

Five attention getters. This was for Israel. But, the principle can be applied to any nation. (I Cor. 10:11, example)

How does the Lord deal with HIS CHILDREN today in regards to Sovereign Providence?

Pr 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

But there is an allusion here to the Eastern method of watering their lands. Several canals are dug from one stream; and by opening a particular sluice, the husbandman can direct a stream to whatever part he please: The king's heart is &c. It is not in the power of kings, much less of other men, either to do or to design what they please, **but their very wills are subject to the great Lord of all, who diverts them as easily from what they intend, or inclines them to that which they resolve against**, as the gardener draws the streams of water, through the trenches he cuts, into what part of the ground he thinks good. Bp. Patrick.

Matthew Henry: Note,

1. Even the hearts of men are in God's hand, and not only their goings, as he had said. **God can change men's minds, can, by a powerful insensible operation under their spirits, turn them from that which they seemed most intent upon, and incline them to that which they seemed most averse to**, as the husbandman, by canals and gutters, turns the water through his grounds as he pleases, which does not alter the nature of the water, nor put any force upon it, **any more than God's providence does upon the native freedom of man's will, but directs the course of it to serve his own purpose.**

2. Even kings' hearts are so, notwithstanding their powers and prerogatives, **as much as the hearts of common persons**. The hearts of kings are unsearchable to us, much more unmanageable by us; as they have their arcana imperii--state secrets, so that they have great prerogatives of their crown; but the great God has them not only under his eye, but in his hand. Kings are what he makes them. Those that are most absolute are under God's government; he puts things into their hearts,

Ezra 1:1 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, **the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia**, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,

Ezra 7:27. Blessed be the LORD God of our fathers, which hath put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem:

Proverbs 16:9 !!!!! A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.

Proverbs 20:24 !!!! Man's goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?

Php 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Heb 13:20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Pr 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. Pr 3:6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

1Ch 28:9 And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

Jer 10:23 O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

Pr 16:3 ¶ Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established. 1. It is a very desirable thing to have our thoughts established, and not tossed, and put into a hurry, by disquieting cares and fears,--to go on in an even steady course of honesty and piety, not disturbed, or put out of frame, by any event or change,--to be satisfied that all shall work for good and issue well at last, and therefore to be always easy and sedate.

2. The only way to have our thoughts established is to commit our works to the Lord. The great concerns of our souls must be committed to the grace of God, with a dependence upon and submission to the conduct of that grace (2Ti 1:12); all our outward concerns must be committed to the providence of God, and to the sovereign, wise, and gracious disposal of that providence. Roll thy works upon the Lord (so the word is); roll the burden of thy care from thyself upon God. Lay the matter before him by prayer. Make known thy works unto the Lord (so some read it), not only the works of thy hand, but the workings of thy heart; and then leave it with him, by faith and dependence upon him, submission and resignation to him. The will of the Lord be done. We may then be easy when we resolve that whatever pleases God shall please us. (Matthew Henry)

Ps 37:4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. The Lord will put HIS desires into your heart.

Psalms 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

Consider the story about Joseph. From Gen. 37 to Gen. 50. Not one miracle. But the Lord is directing men's wills, minds, to accomplish HIS purpose. You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good.