

## Sovereign (Divine) Providence - man healed by the pool (Chosen video 1)

Back story - The man named Jesse, was the brother of Simon the zealot. An invalid for 38 years. Simon abandoned Jesse to become a zealot (a mercenary) ready to assassinate a Roman leader.

He and his brother made a pact. "The day I walk again is the day that the messiah has arrived" it happened. He was the only one healed at the pool that day.

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### VIDEO 2 - Simons purpose

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Orchestrate – a competent conductor can arrange or direct the different elements of (a situation) to produce a desired effect, especially surreptitiously. (in a way that attempts to avoid notice or attention; secretly). Jesus said at times "do not tell anyone"

He knew not everyone would approve, things were done at the appointed time.

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A distinction is usually made between "general providence", which refers to God's [continuous upholding](#) of the existence and [natural order](#) of the Universe, and "special providence", which refers to God's extraordinary intervention in the life of people.

Making provisions and protective care. Making it happen by divine intervention.

1. "natural" order of the universe. Planets, systems, timing, darkness, light, distance.
  2. The seasons. Changes necessary for the cycle of life.
  3. necessary sustenance like water, and food are naturally (supernaturally) provided. Man does not create them, he only manages them.
  4. The mystery of Life itself is divinely provided. Man can not create it.
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Is Providence = the "blessing" of prosperous gifts. (raise, new car, better house)

I can give more, share more, include more, build more

Is Providence = providing purpose through hardship, lack, or suffering (martyrs, persecution, divorce, wounded veteran, bankruptcy)

He provides, inspiration, a legacy, wisdom from mistakes

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1. Does God use bad things to bring about His purposes? Rom 8:28 all things...  
(sin, evil, offenses, war, criminals, bankruptcy, cancer, etc)
  2. Can we seek after or claim Gods blessing at the expense of another's peril?
    - a. sporting event championship? 2 christian teams pray to win?
    - b. colonials "discover" new world to advance Christianity, no matter how it effects Native Americans?
    - c. best parking space at Walmart while a pregnant woman has to walk
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Genesis 8:22

"While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest,And cold and heat,And summer and winter, And day and night Shall not cease."

**A Time for Everything Ecc. 3:3** There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,

a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

9 What do workers gain from their toil? 10 I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet[a] no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. 12 I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. 13 That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God. 14 I know that everything God does will endure forever;

In an address to the United States Congress in 1866, historian George Bancroft reflected this predominant philosophy when he said: “That God rules in the affairs of men is as certain as any truth of physical science.”

Joseph being sold into bondage by his brothers gives an example of God's providential working. Although Joseph's brothers sought to get rid of him, God used their wrath to bring Joseph to a place where he could save his family.

Pharoah – I have raised you up for my purpose Exod 9:16

In reviewing the events of the first few years of the Revolutionary War, George Washington wrote in 1778: “The hand of Providence has been so conspicuous in all of this, that he must be worse than an infidel that lacks faith, and more than wicked, that has not gratitude enough to acknowledge his obligations.”

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### **Providence –**

Gods role -

the protective care of God or of nature as a spiritual power.

God's providence is God's caring provision for his people as he guides them in their journey of faith through life, accomplishing his purpose in them. God's mission is to save people and shape them to be more like Jesus.

### **Our part?**

careful management of material resources ; to steward

having concern or making preparation for the future

our roadblocks – laziness, reckless, squandering, negligence

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Saul kick against the goads \* – Acts 26:14 – fight against his will.

(a spiked stick used for driving cattle.)

Daniel 4:35

“All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,

But He does according to His will in the host of heaven

And among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand

Or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’

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Accepting hurt, loss or less than perfect as Gods plan? (no immediate gratification)

Matt 19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Job 1:21 - He said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, And naked I shall return there. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.”

Jesus healed at least 32 people – could he have healed everyone? Why didn’t he?

37 Miracles recorded , raised 3 from the dead,

Mark 6:5 – only healed a few (at this time)

Is it possible that Gods providence is for us to get fired instead of getting a raise?

Is it Gods providence that we break up a very emotionally attached relationship?

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Matt 5:45 - He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous... If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matt 5:45 – message Bible - Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives his best—the sun to warm and the rain to nourish—to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty. If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that.

48 “In a word, what I’m saying is, Grow up. You’re kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.”

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“So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus, who was going to pass that way.” Luke 19:4

Sycamore trees begin to bear seeds six or seven years after they are planted, and optimum seed production occurs between 50 and 200 years. These trees are fast-growing; if they have sufficient moisture when they're young, they have the potential to grow 2 feet or more annually.

The actual sycamore tree is 2,000 years old and on the road to Jerico.

Do your part and God will do His. He will do it when it needs to happen, where it needs to happen, and He may not tell you why.

TRUST His Providence!