

God Has a Plan

Providence is made up of two words: Pro + Video. "Video" means "to See", and "Pro" means "Before".

PROVIDENCE

(1828 edition of Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language)

PROV'IDENCE, n. [L. providentia.]

1. The act of providing or preparing for future use or application. Providence for war is the best prevention of it. [Now little used.]
2. Foresight; timely care; particularly, active foresight, or foresight accompanied with the procurement of what is necessary for future use, or with suitable preparation. How many of the troubles and perplexities of life proceed from want of providence!
3. In theology, the care and superintendence which God exercises over his creatures. He that acknowledges a creation and denies a providence, involves himself in a palpable contradiction; for the same power which caused a thing to exist is necessary to continue its existence. Some persons admit a general providence, but deny a particular providence, not considering that a general providence consists of particulars. A belief in divine providence, is a source of great consolation to good men. By divine providence is often understood God himself.
4. Prudence in the management of one's concerns or in private economy.

When you think of God's providence, it can be simply broken down into three things: God has a plan, God's plan is good, and God's plan includes you.

God has a Plan (Revealed)

First of all, let's consider God's revealed plan.

Creation, Adam & Eve, Noah (Flood), Tower of Babel, Abraham (Law - Old Covenant), Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Judges (Samuel), Kings (Saul, David, Solomon), Prophets (Major & Minor), Jesus Christ (New Covenant), the Twelve Apostles, Paul, Gentiles blessed through and with Abraham (Grace + Law "light"), Revelation.

Isaiah 46:9-10 (KJV)

9 Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,

10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

Revelation 4:11 (KJV)

11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

God Has a Plan

God has a Plan (Hidden Purpose)

Today, we have a separate calling and inheritance that was hidden in God before the foundation of the world. This body of truth Paul calls “The Mystery” was given to be revealed after the close of Acts and is what is being brought to our attention in the “but now” in Col. 1:25-26 and “before the foundation of the world” in Eph 1:3-14.

Ephesians 1:3-10 (KJV)

- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:
- 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:
- 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,
- 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.
- 7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;
- 8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;
- 9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:
- 10 That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

“Before the foundation of the world” is where we find Christ who is the source of the believer’s eternal position (1 Tim 2:5). Christ was there securing the way of salvation with his blood (1 Pet 1:18-20; John 17:24). It is now revealed that we were chosen in Him at that time. WOW! Everything since or from the foundation of the world pertains to Israel and their calling.

1 Peter 1:19-20 (KJV)

But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

John 17:24 (KJV)

Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

God Has a Plan

Ephesians 3:9-11 (KJV)

- 9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:
- 10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,
- 11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

Colossians 1:25-29 (KJV)

- 25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;
- 26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:
- 27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:
- 28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:
- 29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

God's Plan (Revealed or Hidden) is Good

Genesis 18:25 (KJV)

- 5 That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

Romans 8:28 (KJV)

- 28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Ephesians 1:9-10; 2:4-7; 3:9-11 (KJV)

- 1:9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:
- 10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:
- 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,
- 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)
- 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:
- 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

God Has a Plan

- 3:9 9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:
- 10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,
- 11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

God's Plan (Hidden Purpose) includes You

The gentile, not born as a descendant of Abraham. Not being a member of any house of Israel, but as a separate Gentile, called directly to a relationship with God through Christ Jesus. Your status with God is not defined by Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob but with the hidden purpose revealed by the Apostle Paul in the mystery.

Ephesians 2:10 (KJV)

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (KJV)

- 17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;
- 18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;
- 19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Philippians 1:6 (KJV)

6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Philippians 2:12-13(KJV)

- 12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.
- 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

2 Timothy 2:1-2 (KJV)

- 1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
- 2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Faithful, available, and can teach. Are you one of these faithful Christians who have been called? Even though God is omniscient when he exercises his providence, you still have free will to choose. Won't you choose to be on his team to teach!