

LESSONS ON PREDESTINATION #5
"The Providence of God, Defined & Revealed"
(Scriptures from NKJV)

NOTE: Much of the text herein is quoted directly or paraphrased from the book, *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination* by Lorraine Boettner.

Today's lesson will be the fifth in the series on Predestination, and the subtitle is "The Providence of God, Defined and Revealed." What do we mean by the providence of God? We read in the *Shorter Catechism*,

God's works of providence are His most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all His creatures and all their actions.

That is a very concise definition. I will go a little further and read from the *London Baptist Confession of Faith* in this manner.

God the good Creator of all things, in His infinite power and wisdom doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures and things from the greatest even to the least, by His most wise and holy providence, to the end for the which they were created, according unto His infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of His own will; to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, infinite goodness, and mercy.¹

Although in relation to the foreknowledge and decree of God, the first cause, all things come to pass immutably and infallibly; so that there is not anything befalls any by chance, or without His providence; yet by the same providence He ordereth them to fall out according to the nature of second causes, either necessarily, freely, or contingently.²

The Scriptures very clearly teach that all things outside of God owe not only their original creation, but their continued existence, with all their properties and powers, to the will of God. In other words, God created all things and He controls and governs all things. This stands out in opposition to the deistic teaching, which states that God created, established natural laws, then backed away, and is no longer operating within His universe. The Scriptures teach that He is **"upholding all things by the word of His power."** (Hebrews 1:3). **"He is before all things, and in Him all things consist."** (Colossians 1:17). **"You are God Jehovah, even You alone are the Lord; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You."** (Nehemiah 9:6). **"For in Him we live and move and have our being."** (Acts 17:28). He is **"one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."** (Ephesians 4:6)

¹ Hebrews 1:3; Job 38:11; Isaiah 46:10, 11; Psalms 135:6; Matthew 10:29-31; Ephesians 1:11.

² Acts 2:23; Proverbs 16:33; Genesis 8:22.

So throughout the entire Bible the laws of nature, the course of human history, and the varying fortunes of individuals, are always attributed to God's providential control. All things, both in heaven and earth, from the seraphim down to the tiny atom, are ordered by His never-failing providence. That is astounding to think that there is not one atom in the universe anywhere that is beyond the control of God. If you had a free-radical atom breaking loose somewhere, the whole universe could explode. So God controls the greatest down to the smallest. So intimate is His relationship with the whole creation, that a careless reader might be led toward pantheistic conclusions. A Pantheist is one who holds that God IS everything. He is a tree and a blade of grass - the universe is God, everything that is there. Since the Bible teaches that He is in control of everything, one could almost reach a conclusion that means that God IS everything, but that is not the correct conclusion.

Yet individual personalities and secondary causes are fully recognized, not as being independent of God, but as having their proper place in His plan. Alongside this doctrine of His Immanence, the Scripture writers also present the kindred doctrine of His Transcendence. God is not only involved in everything, but He is also outside of everything, meaning that He does not become enmeshed in His creation while He is at the same time operating in His creation.

Yet as regards God's providence, we are to understand that He is intimately connected with every detail in the affairs of men and the course of nature.

To suppose that anything is too great to be comprehended in His control, (says Dr. Charles Hodge), or anything so minute as to escape His notice; or that the infinitude of particulars can distract His attention, is to forget that God is infinite. . . The sun sheds its light through all space as easily as at any point. So God is as much present everywhere and with everything, as though He were only in one place, and had but one object of attention.

This helps to explain to us how God can be operating in so many different areas? If He is operating in my life, it looks like that would be all He would have time for. But all of the things in heaven and earth, the angels, men, the galaxies, the animals, the plants, the wind, the sun, God is operating all of these things. Again, Dr. Hodge says,

He is present in every blade of grass, yet guiding Areturus³ in his course, marshaling the stars as a host calling them by their names; present also in every human soul, giving it understanding, endowing it with gifts, working in it both to will and to do. The human heart is in His hands; and He turns it

³Areturus is the largest planet. It is four times larger than the sun, and it is all wrapped up in the bear, the pit and the little dipper. On a clear night out in the country, my mother would take me out and try to show me all of those constellations, but I could never find them in the heavens.

even as the rivers of water are turned.

It is almost universally admitted that God determines when, where, and under what circumstances, each individual of the human race shall be born, live and die, whether it shall be male or female, white or black, wise or foolish. God is no less sovereign in the distribution of His favors. He does what He will with His own. To some He gives riches, to others honor, to others health, to others certain talents for music, oratory, art, finance, statesmanship, etc. Others are poor, unknown, born in dishonor, the victims of disease, and live lives of wretchedness. Some are placed in Christian lands where they receive all the benefits of the Gospel; others live and die in the darkness of heathenism. Some are brought through faith unto salvation; others are left to perish in unbelief. To a very large extent, these external things, which are not the result of the individual creature's choice, decide the person's life course and eternal destiny. Just look at yourself and see what you have had bestowed upon you that was beyond your choice and your fitting yourself for that. The Scripture asks, **"For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive?"** (I Corinthians 4:7). We are what we are by the appointment of God. Both Scriptures and everyday experiences teach us that God gives to some what He withholds from others. If it be asked why He does this, or why He does not save all, the only available answer is found in the words of the Lord Jesus, **"Even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight."** (Luke 10:21). Only the Scripture doctrine of the fall and redemption will give us any light on what we see going on all around us.

It is to be remembered that those who receive these gifts, whether spiritual or temporal, receive them through pure grace, while in regard to the others, God simply withholds those gifts which He was under no obligation to bestow. Why have you had the privilege of receiving the amount of light that you have? You have received far more light than multitudes that have existed in this world. Why? The answer is not in us, but the only reason is in pure grace. God was not obligated to bestow his grace upon any, because that is what grace is, unmerited favor. It is sovereign, that which is determined by the Giver. Nations, as well as individuals, are thus in the hands of God, who appoints the bounds of their habitation, and controls their destiny. He controls them as absolutely as a man controls a rod or a staff. They are in His hands, and He employs them to accomplish His purposes. He breaks them in pieces as a potter's vessel, or He exalts them to greatness, according to His good pleasure. He gives peace and fruitful seasons, prosperity and happiness, or He sends the desolations of war, famine, drought and pestilence. All of these things are of His disposing, and are designed for intelligent ends under His universal providence. God is no more a spectator of the universe He has made, but is everywhere present and active, the all-sustaining ground, and all-governing power of all that is.

Recently on television I saw a lady in congress, or who was running for congress, who made

the statement, "God is behind all of the weather, and that He is the one who brings the storms and so forth." She was being heavily criticized that this very idea was ridiculous, that God sends storms, hurricanes, and tornadoes. How could she dare make such a statement? She dares to make such a statement because the Bible makes that statement.

Although the price of the sparrow is small, and its flight seems giddy and at random, yet it does not fall to the ground, nor alight anywhere without your Father's assignment.

His all-wise providence has before appointed what bough it shall perch upon; what grains it shall pick up; where it shall lodge and where it shall build; on what it shall live and where it shall die. (Toplady, *Preface to Zanchius' Predestination*, p. 14).

Think of that. All those little bits of seed that we put out in the bird feeder at our house, each one of them has been directed by God to be brought into our possession to place in the little birds' mouths. In doing so, it is their heavenly Father who is feeding them. They will live a certain number of days or years and they will die. They were appointed to our little woods where we live, and that is where they were hatched, where they are living, and the time of their death is appointed. But Jesus said, "**how much more of value are we**" (Matthew 10:29-31). We are higher creatures, and yet man will say, "no, no, God can't control my life. I will not be a robot in any Creator's hands. I am the master of my own fate." By doing so, they are showing their foolishness. In looking all around us there is countless evidence that is flowing back to counteract that understanding. Every raindrop and every snowflake which falls from the clouds, every insect which moves, every plant which grows, every grain of dust that floats in the air, has had certain definite causes and will have certain definite effects. I am sure you are aware that every snowflake is different in its design. Think of that. There are no two snowflakes alike. God brings that to pass. He controls where it originates and where it is going to fall. Each is a link in the chain of events, and many of the great events of history have turned on these apparently insignificant things.

Throughout the whole course of events there is progress toward a predetermined end. Dr. B. B. Warfield has well written:

It was not accident that brought Rebecca to the well to welcome Abraham's servant (Genesis 24), or that sent Joseph into Egypt (Genesis 45:8; 50:20: '**God meant it for good**'), or guided Pharaoh's daughter to the ark among the flags (Exodus 2), or that later, directed the millstone that crushed Abimelech's head (Judges 9:53), or winged the arrow shot at a venture to smite the king in the joints of the armor (I Kings 22:34). Every historical event is rather treated as an item in the orderly carrying out of an underlying Divine purpose; and the historian is continually aware of the presence in history of Him who gives even to the lightning a charge to strike the mark (Job 36:32).

Do you see why the lady is correct in what she was saying about God controlling the weather, and why she is being so criticized. Why is she being so criticized now at this stage in our American civilization? There was a period of time in which she would not have been criticized. Why is it now in this phase of human history that she is being criticized for such beliefs? It is because the Bible is no longer recognized as an authoritative Book, and thus God is no longer recognized. There is a generic god that congress prays to so that it makes sure to include all the other gods, and doesn't offend any, which are no gods. When you leave out the idea of God, then you have "chance" ruling. You have no purpose behind anything. It is no accident that there are so many young people committing suicide today. This is the result of taking away purpose and goals out of life and being told that you are just a random item in the scheme of evolutionary progress. This idea doesn't tell you where you came from, why you are here, and where you are going. Once the youth get all the gusto out of the alcohol, drugs, and illicit sex, they wake up and say, "Is this it?" Then they end it.

I heard something fascinating this week on television in Birmingham Alabama. There is a lady who has written a book on the folklore of the State of Alabama, and one of the incidents recorded in that book (this is a true happening) is that there was a man who lived here in Alabama who was struck seven times by lightning, and the seventh time, it killed him. That doesn't mean that all seven happened all at one time, the strikes were spread out. They buried the man, and then lightning hit his tombstone and broke it in many different pieces. You can go down to the cemetery in Childersburg, Alabama, and see the broken tombstone. They did not bother to put another stone back up. If I was going to put a stone up, I would want a robot to install it. God controls every lightening strike, but this man was struck seven times. The last strike blew up his headstone into big chunks, and they are piled up there having never been replaced. This is God's providence. "Oh," you say, "that is just an accident." Go out to the airport and look up at the screens on the wall where they show the time of the flights that are leaving and arriving, and you will note that the words and numbers are changing all the time. While you are looking at those screens, there is a change taking place about every time you blink. If you had never seen that before, you would think, "How does it do that?" But behind the scene there is a human mind or something that is in control of all of those words and numbers. That person, or a computer program, may be located in Los Angeles, California, but I am looking at it here in Birmingham, Alabama. All that we see, we relate to secondary causes. Somebody is doing that, but behind it all, is the unseen God directing everything.

I remember hearing the fallen evangelist, Jimmy Swaggart, waxing bold in one of his sermons denying the doctrine of Predestination. It had something to do with one of the hurricanes that had hit the Gulf Coast. He said that there are some who actually say that

God was in that - all those people who died, and all the little babies that died. He said, "I want you to know that God wasn't a million miles from that spot!" How do I reply to that statement? If any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant. Not only does the Bible speak otherwise, but common sense reveals that if there is a God who has created the heavens and earth and all things therein, that if He just lets it loose, then how would He ever regain control? The same preacher talks about the second coming of Christ. What is going to happen at the second coming of Christ? They say God is going to rule this earth with a rod of iron. Why did He let it loose to start with, if He can do it again in the future? Then there are those who hold that God sent His Son into the world to live and die for sinners, and He came unto His own people the Jews, but the Jews rejected Him, so He left and went to "Plan B" which was the church. But one of these days He is going to return again and resort to "Plan A" for His kingdom for the Jews. Now I ask this question. What makes us think the Jews would be any more cooperative at the second coming than they were at the first coming? If you say God is going to make them believe, then you become a Predestinarian. We don't think consistently with the data that is given us in the Scripture. So in our own life, we note our own deliberations, choices and decisions, and yet in the fabric of our destiny there seem to be other strands, strands not of our own weaving. Apparently trivial events play their part in great issues.

I have come close to death three or four times in my lifetime. I wouldn't be here today if certain events had occurred a little bit differently. Man's sense of moral responsibility and dependence, and his instinctive appeal to God in times of danger, show how universal and innate is the conviction that God does govern the world and all human events. There is an old saying, "There are no atheists in fox holes." That is, when a person gets in extreme danger, healthwise, he starts calling on God. However, what can God do if He is not involved in these things? If God interfered, then He would be interfering with man's activities, and man would become a robot. So why would you call upon God if you deny that He is in control of all things?

Here is an interesting observation. While the Bible repeatedly teaches that this providential control is universal, powerful, wise, and holy, it nowhere attempts to inform us how it is to be reconciled with man's free agency. All that we need to know is that God does govern His creatures and that His control over them is such that no violence is done to their natures. Perhaps the relationship between divine sovereignty and human freedom can best be summed up in these words: **God so presents the outside inducements that man acts in accordance with his own nature, yet does exactly what God has planned for him to do.** (Emphasis added). God presents all of these choices out here that we act according to the wisdom of our own nature, and yet we do exactly what God has planned for us to do. We will treat this subject, as it relates to human responsibility, later in this series.

Now what Scripture texts can be used to prove these things? We have given a definition, examples of it that go on in our every day lives, what Scriptures can we appeal to? This is a Scriptural doctrine of providence that is so plain that it is admitted by many of the world's leading philosophers who even reject it for themselves. Isn't that interesting? Wise thinkers acknowledge that these things are true, but they will not receive them. Here are some Scriptural evidences for God's providential control over various areas of His creation.

1. God's Providential Control Extends Over **NATURE** or the **PHYSICAL WORLD**.

Nahum 1:3 - *" . . . The Lord has His way In the whirlwind and in the storm, And the clouds are the dust of His feet."*

Have you ever thought about that? Have you every watched a storm cloud form into its different shapes? Then ten minutes later it starts deteriorating. It would be like picking up a handful of dry dust and throwing it up in the air. The clouds disappear like dust, and God controls every bit of them. Again, the lady we referred to earlier has a basis for what she is saying about the hurricanes and such.

Exodus 9:26 - *"Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail."*

Do you remember the plagues in Egypt? They occurred all over Egypt except where the Israelites were. That is control of the physical world by God.

Matthew 5:45 - *"that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."*

Amos 4:7 - *"I also withheld rain from you, when there were still three months to the harvest. I made it rain on one city, I withheld rain from another city. One part was rained upon, and where it did not rain the part withered."*

Is God in control of the weather? Then how is it that wise people refer to it as "Mother Nature?" Well, it is natural order, but the question is, does God control the natural order of things? Then that means He is behind the floods and He is behind the droughts. He will send rain over here, and withhold rain from over there. Then the next season, it is the opposite.

Isaiah 40:12 - *"Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, measured heaven with a span and calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?"*

I heard a preacher describe one time two flies riding on the rear axil of a tractor trailer combination. They were going down a dirt road and the dust is just boiling. One fly turned

to the other and said, "Look at all that dust we are kicking up." We laugh at that don't we? But isn't it humorous that little frail human beings who are but specks in the universe say, "Look at what we are doing. We can put a man on the moon!" God has done a whole lot more than that.

2. God not only in His providence extends over the physical world, but the **ANIMAL CREATION**.

Matthew 10:29 - *"Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will."*

Matthew 6:26 - *"Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"*

That passage is taken from the Sermon on the Mount, and I can visualize what we are told about the migratory birds, that as Jesus is speaking, here comes a flock of birds. Jesus says, extemporaneously, "Look, look at the birds as an example to illustrate what I am talking about. Look at them. They don't reap or gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

Daniel 6:22 - *"My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you."*

Psalms 104:21 - *"The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their food from God."*

3. God not only controls the nature of the animals and the physical nature, but God's providence extends over **NATIONS** as well.

Daniel 4:17 - (this is the great example of Nebuchadnezzar) *" . . . In order that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men."*

Nebuchadnezzar said, "Look at mighty Babylon which I have built!" Then he ends up like a cow eating grass in the field for seven years and loses his sanity. When God restored it back to him, he said, "I have learned something. I have learned that God is the One who raises up the kingdoms. He has restored my kingdom to me, and now I will honor Him.

Isaiah 40:15 - *"Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust on the scales; look, He lifts up the isles as a very little thing."*

Do you ever wonder where so many phrases come from that we use all the time? This one, "a drop in a bucket" comes right out of the Scriptures. A large empire like Rome is but a

drop in a bucket. We live in the most powerful nation on earth, the United States of America, but America is but as a drop in a bucket. God has raised it up, and He can take it away. Russia was once a powerful nation. Germany was once a powerful nation. Those of us who are in my age bracket have seen this in our lifetime. These great nations were raised up, but are now no more, and have lost their power.

Daniel 2:21 - *"And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding."*

Psalm 33:10 - *"The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect."*

This is Hebrew parallelism. The counsel of the nations and the plans of the peoples are one thing. Let us remember that. The plans which are being made in Washington D.C. today can be destroyed by God and be turned against the ones who are doing the planning. That is God who controls that. Yes, we go and vote in our democracy republic. We vote for the person who we think would make the best officer, local, state and federal. Yet it is God who determines who is going to be there, and how long they are going to be there. Do you remember the days of John F. Kennedy, how infatuated the American people were with him. Yet, he was president but for a brief period of time. Behind it all is God. Do you see how that if you remember the family like the Kennedy family, how that is offensive? But if that offends us, it is because we have too high a view of ourselves, and we are lifted up in pride thinking that we are worthy over that which happens to others. It can happen to us at any time. The heart attack, the automobile wreck, shootings, we are all prone to that exposure.

4. Not only does God's providence extend over these things, but fourthly, it extends over **INDIVIDUAL MEN**. Here is a text which I reflect on often.

Proverbs 21:1 - *"The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes."*

I am told by so-called Hebrew experts, that this is actually not referring to a large river, but it is referring to an irrigation system. I see that whenever I leave Birmingham, Alabama to go back to Springfield, Missouri, and we go through Arkansas where they raise rice. They can take those streams and rivers that run through there, and they can lift a little block, and that water flows out into this stream. Then they can shut that, and it comes into this. One person is controlling all of that. Some of it is even controlled now by computers. That is the way God controls the human heart, the king's heart, the one who is in control of all, God is in control of him. How in the world can we say, "if I believed that, it would make me a robot," when the text says just that? What can be more intimate about our being than what goes on

in our hearts, or what we think about?

Psalm 37:23 - *"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way."*

We can't even claim our goodness for ourselves, but because we are doing things a certain way, that way has been ordered by God. Take for example the young man who was here last week in our class. We were able to help him out financially and get him on his way some eight or nine hundred miles from here. What was behind all of that? Not only was God teaching him something, but God brought me into the picture as well. We let him know that he was being helped. I was just a vessel, but it was God who was helping him on his journey.

Proverbs 16:9 - *"A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps."*

James 4:15 - *"Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.'"*

I Corinthians 4:7 - *"For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?"*

Whatever we possess is a gift from God. What is the benefit of this?

Psalm 118:6 - *"The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"*

Exodus 11:7 - *"But against none of the children of Israel shall a dog move its tongue, against man or beast, that you may know that the Lord does make a difference between the Egyptians and Israel."*

Not a dog could bark to let the Egyptian officials know what was taking place. God was delivering His people from Egypt.

Acts 18:9 - *"Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, 'Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent.'"*

5. Fifthly, this providence extends to the **FREE ACTS OF MEN** - what we choose freely.

Exodus 12:36 - *"And the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them what they requested. Thus they plundered the Egyptians."*

Do you remember the account? The Israelites were leaving Egypt and the Lord so moved upon the Egyptians, that they gave them gold and silver. Where do you think they got all this out there in the wilderness? They didn't pick it up by the roadside. It is not easy to get

human beings to part with their wealth. Here was a bunch of slaves that the Egyptians said, "Here take this on your way. This will help you on your journey."

Ezekiel 36:27 - "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them."

I will, you shall.

6. Finally, this providence extends to the **SINFUL ACTS OF MEN.**

Acts 4:27, 28 - "For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done."

Herod didn't love Jesus. Pilate didn't love Jesus. The Gentiles had no interest in Him, and the leaders of Israel hated Him. Yet among all of these figureheads, they all hated one another. But they all got together against this person named Jesus, and they crucified Him. Yet they were doing exactly what God determined beforehand to be done. They all had wicked hands.

John 19:11 - "Jesus answered, 'You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.'"

He told that to a ruler. The ruler said, "Speak up, don't you know who you are talking to?" Jesus said, "You don't have any power over me except what My heavenly Father gives you."

Psalms 76:10 - "Surely the wrath of man shall praise You; with the remainder of wrath You shall gird Yourself."

The wrath of men, the sin of men, God will bring about praise to Himself, and the remainder of wrath, He will restrain. How much sinning is going on today? Just what God is allowing. Look at II Thessalonians 2, when that restraint is lifted and the wicked hearts of men manifest themselves. When God takes away His restraint, then you have wickedness. That is what is going on in the days before the flood where God says, "Here is what man is capable of doing. Man thinks he can build an empire and govern civilization without Me. Alright, go at it." He pulls the restraint off, and men end up murdering each other. It is my view that this is what is occurring in our country today. We have removed prayer in the public schools on the grounds of the separation of church and state. We have approved same sex marriage now. We have approved abortion on demand. On and on, and on, and God is allowing us to do that. In doing so, man thinks he is making progress, but he can't explain why he can't control the people that he is setting free from religion. We are being

told that religion is the problem. It is standing in the way of our progress. Lets remove religion, namely Christianity. Then when you remove it, they can't understand why they can't govern the society of human beings. The founding fathers of this country who put together this great document of our constitution made the observation that this constitution will only work where there is a base of moral people. If you remove morality from this, you cannot say that a piece of paper is going to hold it together. It is morals, accountability, responsibility, and we are seeing the decay and the effect. God says, "Go at it, see if you can hold this thing together." I will make this statement in passing. This is the frustration that Satan is experiencing all the time. He has a kingdom as well as God has a kingdom in Christ. Satan's kingdom is to overthrow the kingdom of God and set the creatures free. There is a saying, "there is no honor among thieves." Satan's frustration is with all of the people who are under his control that are outside of Christ. He cannot succeed in bringing a kingdom of world peace. Do you see what is happening? Germany, Russia, Hitler, Mussolini, all these world empires thought they had the answer, and they couldn't do it. If you remove Christian morals from a society, you cannot produce a glue that will hold it together. This is why Satan's kingdom, while it seems to be so powerful, it is actually extremely weak.

Exodus 14:17 - *"And I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen."*

God's providence extends over all.