

The Greatness of God

Romans 15:4 *For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*

The Greatness of God: Creation

Genesis 1:1, Colossians 1:17

God as Sovereign

Colossians 1:16 *For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.*

John 19:11 *Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."*

"Most Christians salute the sovereignty of God but believe in the sovereignty of man." R.C. Sproul

"Because God governs inanimate matter... when we complain about the weather, we are, in reality, murmuring against God" A.W. Pink

"This is God's universe, and God does things his way. You may have a better way, but you don't have a universe." J. Vernon McGee

Transcendence- God is distinct and separate from creation

Immanence- God is with us

Orderliness- order not chaos is seen in creation

The sovereignty of God tells us that creation is solely the work of God because it was created ex-nihilo.

Ex-out + Nihilo- nothing = out of nothing

Eternal God or eternal matter— that is the choice. The latter is an impossibility if the present scientific law of cause and effect is valid, since random particles of matter could not, by themselves, generate a complex, orderly, intelligible universe,

not to mention living persons capable of applying intelligence to the understanding of the complex order of the universe. A personal God is the only adequate Cause to produce such effects.

Morris, Henry M.. *The Genesis Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Book of Beginnings* (p. 24). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

Creation Identifies God's Providence

Providence: Latin pro- before, vide-see; to see beforehand.

Providence is more than God just seeing beforehand it speaks of his absolute sovereign care and rule over all of creation.

Louis Berkhof: *The continued exercise of the divine energy whereby the Creator preserves all His creatures, is operative in all that comes to pass in the world, and directs all things to their appointed end.*

The providence of God is typically explained in three areas 1) preservation 2) concurrence 3) government.

Preservation

God keeps all things existing and maintaining the properties with which he made them.

Hebrews 1:3 *He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.*

Colossians 1:17 *He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

Concurrence

God cooperates with created things in every action, directing their distinctive properties to cause them to act as they do.

Ephesians 1:11 *In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,*

Proverbs 16:33 *The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.*

Acts 17:26 *And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,*

God is actively in control of our lives.

Psalm 139:16 *Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.*

Luke 22:22 *For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!”*

Government

God has a purpose in all that he does in the world and he providentially governs or directs all things in order that they accomplish his purposes.

Daniel 4:35 *all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?”*

Ephesians 1:11 *In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,*

Charles Spurgeon: *“Cheer up, Christian! Things are not left to chance: no blind fate rules the world. God hath purposes, and those purposes are fulfilled. God hath plans, and those plans are wise, and never can be dislocated.”*