

# **Resting in Providence, pt. 6 (Sovereignty & Providence)**

**Selected Passages November 4, 2018**

## **Anchored**

It is not in the design of God for us to know all the future...

**I. Rest as you Understand the Definition of Providence**

**II. Rest as you Consider the Scope of Providence**

**III. Rest as you Contemplate the Sovereignty of Providence**

# I. Rest as you Understand the Definition of Providence

**McCann and Johnson** *Traditional theism holds that God is the creator of heaven and earth, and that all that occurs in the universe takes place under Divine Providence — that is, under God's sovereign guidance and control...God governs creation as a loving father, working all things for good...God is an absolutely perfect being. He is, first of all, omniscient or all-knowing...And God's knowledge does not change... what he knows, he knows from eternity and infallibly...God is omnipotent or all-powerful: anything that is logically possible, he can do...God is perfectly good: in all circumstances he acts for the best, intending the best possible outcome (Divine Providence in Spring 2017 Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy by Hugh J. McCann and Daniel M. Johnson).*

**A. H. Strong** *By the decrees of God we mean that eternal plan by which God **has rendered certain** all the events of the universe, past, present, and future. Notice in explanation that: (a) The decrees are many only to our finite comprehension; in their own nature they are but one plan, which embraces not only effects but also causes, not only the ends to be secured but also the means needful to secure them... (b) The decrees, as the eternal act of an infinitely perfect will, though they have logical relations to each other, have no chronological relation. They are not therefore the result of deliberation, in any sense that implies shortsightedness or hesitancy (Augustus Hopkins Strong, *Systematic Theology*, 353)*

## **II. Rest as you Consider the Scope of Providence**

### **Overview of Its Scope**

- In Ordering all of Creation as Its Author
- In Ordering the Material Universe
- In Preserving all Life
- In Ordering the Nations and People
  - Destiny of Rulers, Nations, Decisions, and History
- In Directing the Lives of His Children
- In Using Evil and Suffering for His Purposes

### **III. Rest as you Contemplate the Sovereignty of Providence**

**Defined by considering three words: RIGHT, ABILITY, DESIRE**

**Right—**

**Consider the *Westminster Confession***

God the great Creator of all things doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest even to the least, by his most wise and holy providence, according to his infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of his own will, to the praise of the glory of his wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy (chp 5, section 1).

□ Ability—

- A Final Thought:  
A Call to Trust in Psalm 115