

A Providential God Evidenced in Universal History

SEE WHAT GOD IS DOING:

Isaiah 43:19 – “Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” ESV

UNDERSTANDING HISTORY IN THE SPECTRUM GOD’S PROVIDENCE GIVES ONE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

John 14 ...let not your hearts be troubled, believe in God...

HISTORY

Origin:

Genesis 1:1 “...In the beginning God...”

Rev 1:8 “...I am the Alpha and Omega...”

History: “An account of facts, particularly of facts respecting nations or states; a narration of events in the order in which they happened, with their causes and effects.” Webster’s 1828

Principles:

Nations:

Acts 17:24-26

“²⁴ “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶ From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. “

Man has always tried to deviate from God’s will and create a one world government, yet God has always intervened. History shows us that His will comes to pass and he

dismantles the works of the devil. I have encouraged my children and students to not be fearful, but to be expectant of what God is going to do!

Events:

Ecclesiastes 3:1 “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:”

Galatians 4:4-5 “ But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,⁵To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.”

Purpose:

Psalm 78:2-8

“I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old—³ things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us. ⁴We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. ⁵He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, ⁶so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. ⁷Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands. ⁸They would not be like their ancestors a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him.”

THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO LOOK AT HISTORY – EITHER MAN WORKING OR GOD WORKING.

“History is either the record of God's overruling Hand in the affairs of men and nations, or it is the record of an on-going struggle between the forces of some good and of some evil. In the latter interpretation of history, God is simply another concept of "good," or a god, while the first statement would make the assertion that God is The One True God, exerting His supreme power over all things.” *Ancient History: Law without Liberty, Katherine Dang, pg xxi*

PROVIDENCE:

1. The act of providing or preparing for future use or application.
2. Foresight; timely care; particularly, active foresight, or foresight accompanied with the procurement of what is necessary for future use, or with suitable preparation.
3. In theology, the care and superintendence which God exercises over his creatures... By divine *providence* is often understood God himself.

Webster's 1828

Scriptural Support:

Genesis 50:20 – “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”

Proverbs 19:21 – “Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.”

Revelations 17:17 – “For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to hand over to the beast their royal authority, until God's words are fulfilled.”

Ephesians 1:4 – “For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.”

Acts 2:23 – “This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men,^[a] put him to death by nailing him to the cross.”

“The Providence of God is the Efficiency whereby he provides for his creatures now made, in all things, according to the counsell of his owne Will.” *The Marrow of Sacred Divinity, William Ames, 1642*

“The Providential approach to History presupposes order and purpose, deliberateness on the part of God the Creator, whose manner it is to overrule the purposes and cross purposes of men, to bring about the actual events of history. From this approach to history, men and nations become, in effect, the peculiar agents of Divine Providence which governs and directs the course of this world, moving it forward to its destined conclusion.” *Ancient History: Law without Liberty, Katherine Dang, pg 7*

“There is a Providence which superintends and overrules the actions of men and nations, making them subservient to the higher and nobler purpose of bringing liberty to individual men and women. History attests to mankind's unending struggle with one form of tyranny after another, and man's gradual progress toward freer institutions, a result of the increase in internal liberty experienced by individuals. That liberty which sets men free from sin's control also sets them free from the control of tyrants.” *The Guide to American Christian Education, James Rose, pg 289*

THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD WORKING.

Superintending – Overseeing with authority to direct what shall be done and how it shall be done.

Genesis 1:27 – “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Overseeing – Overlooking, implies caring and watchful; viewing fully

Psalms 8:4 - What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Genesis 11:5-6 - And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. ⁶And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

Disposing – Setting order; arranging; distributing; bestowing; regulating; adjusting; governing

Isaiah 33:22 - For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us. (governing)

Job 14:5 - Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass; (regulating)

Overruling – Controlling; subjecting to authority; exerting superior and controlling power

Romans 5:20 - Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

1 John 3:8 - He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

GOD WORKS

Individually, Internally, Invisibly, Imperceptibly, and Incomprehensibly

Do you see God's hand moving in nations and events. He is always working and bringing about liberty.

History is simply "God Working" to spread the gospel and establish his Kingdom!

RESOURCES

Katherine Dang

<https://philomathfoundation.com>

Universal History: Ancient History, Law without Liberty

Ruth Smith

<https://pilgriminstitutione.org/index.php/store>

The Mighty Works of God Series

Stephen McDowell

America's Providential History

Paul Jehle

<https://plymrock.org/author/pjehle>

Carmen Songs

Lazarus Come Forth

Sundays on the Way

The Champion