

CHAPTER 5: GOD'S PROVIDENCE



CHAPTER OUTLINE

I. PANORAMIC PROVIDENCE

II. PERSPECTIVES ON PROVIDENCE

III. PERFECT PROVIDENCE

IV. PATERNAL PROVIDENCE

V. PUNISHING PROVIDENCE

VI. PARTICULAR PROVIDENCE

I. PANORAMIC PROVIDENCE

A. All of God's Actions

God the great Creator of all things doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern

B. All of God's Creatures

all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest even to the least

C. All of God's Wisdom

by His most wise and holy providence, according to His infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of His own will

D. All for God's Glory

to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy.

II. PERSPECTIVES ON PROVIDENCE

A. God is the First Cause

1. All things come to pass

Although, in relation to the foreknowledge and decree of God, the first Cause, all things come to pass

2. Immutably and infallibly

immutably, and infallibly:

B. God uses Second Causes

1. He orders them to fall out

yet, by the same providence, He orders them to fall out,

2. According to the nature of second causes

according to the nature of second causes,

3. Either necessarily, freely, or contingently

either necessarily, freely, or contingently.

C. God is the Miraculous Cause

1. God ordinarily uses means

God, in His ordinary providence, makes use of means,

2. But may work without, above, and against them

yet is free to work without, above, and against them, at His pleasure.

III. PERFECT PROVIDENCE

A. God Planned Sin

The almighty power, unsearchable wisdom, and infinite goodness of God so far manifest themselves in His providence,

1. The unholy sins

that it extends itself even to the first fall, and all other sins of angels and men;

- a. The first sin
- b. All sin (of angels and men)

2. The holy plan

and that not by a bare permission, but such as has joined with it a most wise and powerful bounding, and otherwise ordering, and governing of them, in a manifold dispensation, to His own holy ends;

- a. Not a bare permission
- b. But a powerful bounding, ordering, and governing
- c. To his own holy ends

B. God Prohibits Sin

1. Sin proceeds only from the creature

yet so, as the sinfulness thereof proceeds only from the creature,

2. God neither authors it nor approves it

and not from God, who, being most holy and righteous, neither is nor can be the author or approver of sin.

IV. PATERNAL PROVIDENCE

A. Our Father's Wisdom

The most wise, righteous, and gracious God

B. Our Father's Withdrawal

1. When does he leave them

doth oftentimes leave for a season His own children

a. Oftentimes

b. For a season

2. What does he leave them to

to manifold temptations, and the corruption of their own hearts,

a. Manifold temptations

b. The corruption of their own hearts

C. Our Father's Will

1. To chastise them for their former sins

to chastise them for their former sins,

2. To show them their strong hidden corruption

or to discover unto them the hidden strength of corruption

3. To expose their heart-deceit

and deceitfulness of their hearts,

4. To humble them

that they may be humbled;

5. To draw them to Himself

*and, to raise them to a more close and constant dependence
for their support upon Himself,*

6. To make them more watchful against sin

*and to make them more watchful against all future occa-
sions of sin,*

7. For other just and holy purposes

and for sundry other just and holy ends.

V. PUNISHING PROVIDENCE

A. God justly hardens the wicked

1. Withholds grace

*As for those wicked and ungodly men whom God, as a right-
eous Judge, for former sins, does blind and harden, from
them He not only withholds His grace whereby they might
have been enlightened in their understandings, and wrought
upon in their hearts;*

2. Withdraws gifts

but sometimes also withdraws the gifts which they had,

3. Exposes them to temptation

and exposes them to such objects as their corruption makes occasion of sin;

4. Gives them over

and, withal, gives them over to their own lusts, the temptations of the world, and the power of Satan,

B. The wicked sinfully harden themselves

1. Even under the means of grace

whereby it comes to pass that they harden themselves, even under those means which God uses for the softening of others.

VI. PARTICULAR PROVIDENCE

A. General Creature Providence

As the providence of God does in general reach to all creatures,

B. Special Church Providence

so, after a most special manner, it takes care of His Church, and disposes all things to the good thereof.

CHAPTER 6: THE FALL OF MAN, SIN, AND THE PUNISHMENT



CHAPTER OUTLINE

I. THE PRIMARY SIN

II. THE PROPAGATION OF SIN

III. THE PRODUCE OF SIN

IV. THE PUNISHMENT OF SIN

I. THE PRIMARY SIN

A. Our first parents lusted

i. Satan seduced them to sin

Our first parents, being seduced by the subtilty and temptation of Satan, sinned, in eating the forbidden fruit.

2. God permitted them to sin

This their sin God was pleased, according to His wise and holy counsel, to permit, having purposed to order it to His own glory.

B. Our first parents lost

1. Righteousness

By this sin they fell from their original righteousness

2. Communion

and communion, with God,

3. Life

and so became dead in sin,

4. Purity

and wholly defiled in all the parts and faculties of soul and body.

II. THE PROPAGATION OF SIN

A. They were the sinful root

1. Guilty root

THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

They being the root of all mankind, the guilt of this sin was imputed,

2. Dead root

and the same death in sin

3. Corrupt root

and corrupted nature conveyed,

B. We are the sinful fruit

1. Guilt, death, and corruption

2. Imputed and conveyed

3. To all ordinary descendents

to all their posterity descending from them by ordinary generation.

III. THE PRODUCE OF SIN

A. Our relation to good

1. Utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good

From this original corruption, whereby we are utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good,

B. Our relation to evil

i. Wholly inclined to all evil

and wholly inclined to all evil, do proceed all actual transgressions.

C. Our relation to Christ

i. We are regenerated, pardoned and mortified through Christ

This corruption of nature, during this life, does remain in those that are regenerated; and although it be, through Christ, pardoned and mortified,

2. But our corrupt nature remains sinful through all our days

yet both itself and all the motions thereof are truly and properly sin.

IV. THE PUNISHMENT OF SIN

A. The essence of sin

i. Every sin transgresses God's righteous law

Every sin, both original and actual, being a transgression of the righteous law of God, and contrary thereunto,

B. The effect of sin

i. Every sin brings guilt upon the sinner

does, in its own nature, bring guilt upon the sinner;

C. The end of sin

1. The wrath of God

whereby he is bound over to the wrath of God,

2. The curse of the law

and curse of the law,

3. Death

and so made subject to death,

4. All miseries (spiritual, temporal, eternal)

with all miseries spiritual, temporal, and eternal.