

Lesson 4

Praising God for His Providence

Introduction

2020 was a difficult year. For many of our congregations the stresses were evident. Bible classes and public worship assemblies were cancelled. Gatherings in homes were postponed. Close contact was avoided. Our families dealt with much of the same. Get togethers with our extended family were curtailed or cancelled. People had to learn to work from home. Resources were gathered and handed out carefully. We could go on and on about how our work was impacted. Many of us experienced the death of a loved one or close family relative. I do not know many people who would wish to have another year like 2020. We've all looked forward to a new, better year in 2021.

We Must Learn to Glorify God in Every Situation

We may not understand why God allows things to happen, but we must learn to glorify God in whatever happens. God is always working. God always guarantees the success of those who trust in Him and submit to His ways. As we've endured difficulties ... and as we anticipate more uncertainty and disappointment in the upcoming years, we must remember God will be working for us ... demonstrating His providence ... as He always has. In the meantime, we need to remember:

- We are *more than conquerors*, Romans 8.37-39.
- We are striving to be like Jesus who said, *Be courageous! I have conquered the world*, John 16.33b.
- We are overcomers, 1 John 5.4-5.
- Every good and perfect gift comes from God, James 1.17-19.

When we put these things into our mind and allow them to govern our emotions and feelings, we will begin to glorify God in every situation. The Psalmist said:

Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does wonders. Blessed be his glorious name forever; the whole earth is filled with his glory. Amen and amen.

– Psalm 72.18-19

For Personal Application

- **No matter what happens, will we praise God? God, through His providence,** will help us overcome every difficulty.
- **Exultation for God should always be a part of our life.** When difficulties come, we must avoid the temptation to blame God. God did not place the bad things in our life, but He does work by providence to help us through them. These things are ultimately for our good.

What is a mere human, that you think so highly of him and pay so much attention to him? You inspect him every morning, and put him to the test every moment.

– Job 7.17-18

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you and the rivers will not overwhelm you, When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched and the flame will not burn you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, and your Savior.

– Isaiah 43.1b-3a

- **God’s promises are greater than any trouble or bad circumstances we face in life.** Will we believe Peter’s words?

His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. By these he has given us very great and precious promises, so that through them you may share in the divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world because of evil desire.

– 2 Peter 1.3-4

For Thought and Reflection

1. What were some of the greatest difficulties and changes you had to deal with in 2020?
2. How did you learn to cope with them?
3. How are you learning to glorify God in everything that happens?
4. How does your spiritual identity factor into your praise?
5. How does the fact that blessings of life result from the gifts of a glorious God fill your heart with praise?
6. When difficulties come, how can we avoid blaming God?

