

Open your Bibles to the Book of Exodus.

- We'll be looking at 1:22-2:10 this morning.
- And we will be considering the Providence of God.

The Providence of God is, I think, the great theme that runs throughout this passage.

- What is God's Providence?
- To quote Answer 14 of the Baptist Catechism, "God's works of providence are His most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all His creatures, and all their actions."
- Divine Providence is God's ruling over all His creatures and all their actions to bring about His purposes that He decreed in eternity past.

In this text, we will see the Hand of God directing everything to keep baby Moses alive.

- There are so many things that needed to go just right, AND DID, or the child would've perished as a three-month-old.
- Things happen in our text that, though they are commonplace to those who are familiar with the narrative, were nevertheless simply astonishing. Nobody could've seen it coming.
- Moses, by all human reckoning, should've died as an infant. But he didn't. He lived.
- And that is because God was directing all things according to His holy will: Human actions, human wills, animals, and nature itself were being ruled over by God to ensure that the Deliverer of Israel, Moses, would live and grow up to do the work that God had ordained for him.

As we consider the Providence of God in Moses' life, we will be reminded of God's sovereign rule in general.

- From there, I hope to direct your thoughts to how God has kept His hand on your life thus far.

- And, finally, I hope to show you how what God did for Moses parallels and foreshadows another work of God's Providence for an even Greater Savior, Jesus Christ.

- And, in all of this, I pray that God would teach us all to delight in His works and learn to trust Him more.

Here is the big idea I'm aiming at this morning:

- God reigns over all things. And He does so for the good of His People in Jesus Christ. Therefore, we can entrust ourselves to this God who is faithful, kind, and sovereign.

- May God bless the preaching of His Word.

Exodus 1:22-2:10

[22] Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live."

[1] Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman.

[2] The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months.

[3] When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it

among the reeds by the river bank.

[4] And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him.

[5] Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it.

[6] When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

[7] Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"

[8] And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother.

[9] And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him.

[10] When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

(PRAY)

Our Triune God,

• Thank you for another opportunity to sit under the ministry of your Word.

• Grant, Lord, that we would benefit from this.

• Apart from your blessing, the preacher has no power to change hearts and the hearers have no ability to believe and respond rightly to your Word.

•And so, we humbly ask that you would do a work of grace in our hearts today.

•Give us understanding. Give us faith. Give us the will and ability to respond appropriately to whatever you've revealed in your Word.

•Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening.

•We ask these things in Jesus' Name and for His sake. Amen.

1.) Brothers and sisters, this narrative is full of glaring and clear examples of God's Providence.

•Now, we could rightly say that every narrative is full of God's Providence because He rules over all things at all times and directs them all according to His will. He does that with literally everything and every event.

•But it is exceptionally clear in this text that God is at work and is actively governing all things.

•And it is so clear that I believe it is one of the central things that God intends to reveal about Himself in this narrative.

•So what I'm going to do now is recap the text we just read and trace the Hand of God throughout this narrative so you can see Him at work.

After the midwives thwarted Pharaoh's plan to kill all the Jewish male newborns, we read in v22 that Pharaoh hatches a new plan.

•Pharaoh commanded ALL HIS PEOPLE, the whole nation, to cast every Hebrew baby boy into the Nile River.

•Apparently, any Egyptian who spotted a newborn

Israelite boy had the authority to take that baby and throw it into the Nile where it would be drowned or eaten by wild animals like crocodiles.

- The Egyptians were given authority from Pharaoh to rip sons from their mother's breasts and murder them.
- This was national, state-sponsored genocide.

The text goes on in chapter 2 to tell us that, even with this murderous edict given, two Levites, a man and a woman, conceive a son.

- We learn later in Exodus 6:20 that their names are Amram (father) and Jochebed (mother).
- This baby will eventually grow up to be none other than Moses, God's chosen Deliverer of Israel.
- And, apparently, Moses was born JUST AFTER Pharaoh's decree was given, since there is no mention of his family having to hide his brother, Aaron, who was three years old at the time, as we deduce from Exodus 7:7.

Divine Providence is already at work here.

- The two Levites conceive a baby. And those who have children know what a work of God it is to conceive a child. Everything has to go just right in order for new life to come forth from the marital union.
- But it's not just a baby. It's a SON. God gives them a son right in the midst of Pharaoh's murderous reign.
- And, again, we know that this son will grow up to be the human savior of Israel. This baby boy is God's chosen instrument of redemption to save His People and bring them into the Promised Land.
- God has brought His redeemer into the world.

V2 goes on to tell us that this boy was a “fine child.”

- He was healthy and strong and beautiful in the eyes of His parents.

- The baby being a “fine child” is by God’s Hand.
- I think it was an encouragement to his parents to do whatever they could to keep him alive and not allow him to be killed by the Egyptians.

His mother then hid him. For three months she was able to conceal him in her house.

- This wouldn’t have been an easy thing. Babies cry. Babies need constant attention and care.
- This must have been difficult, especially with Egyptians who apparently lived intermingled with the Israelites as their taskmasters and neighbors.
- No doubt there was always a threat of a lurking Egyptian who was more than willing to obey Pharaoh’s command.

I see here another act of God’s Providence.

- As I said earlier, Moses was not the firstborn of his family. Miriam was. And his brother Aaron was three years old.
- The fact that Jochebed was able to conceal Moses for three months could have been, in part, because those around her would assume that his cries could be attributed to the toddler Aaron.
- If so, this is an instance of God’s Providence to provide cover for baby Moses in his house.

But the time came when Jochebed could no longer hide Moses.

- He was getting too big and was no longer easily concealed for one reason or another.
- The bigger a baby gets, the louder it gets and can no longer be as easily pacified by his mother.
- So, we read in v3 that Jochebed made a basket out of bulrushes (papyrus reeds that grew along the Nile), seals it with the material available to her to make it waterproof, put the baby inside, closed the lid, and placed it among the reeds of the riverbank of the Nile.

This was an act of pure desperation. You can feel the sorrow of the woman, if you think about it for a moment.

•Her options are to keep the baby in the house where he will be discovered by an Egyptian and killed. OR, put him in a basket along the Nile and give him a slim chance of living.

•Why did she place him among the reeds by the riverbank? We're not totally sure, but we can speculate a couple of reasons.

•Perhaps she hoped that someone would discover him, have mercy, and have the means to save him.

•But I'm not so sure about that. She had been hiding the baby in her home for three months. That makes me think that she was probably trying to hide him along the Nile, especially when you consider that she placed him in a basket and put a lid on it.

•In light of this, some think that her plan was short-term and she probably planned to go back and feed and clean the child as often as she could until she figured

out what to do with him.

- I'm not sure that Jochebed expected or desired anyone to find him.

So, the baby is placed in the basket among the reeds of the Nile.

- And his older sister, Miriam, probably aged 8-12, "stood at a distance to know what would be done to him."

- On her own initiative, Miriam stuck around to see what would happen to her brother. She cared for him.

- But there wasn't much she could do to help him...or so she thought.

And lo and behold, Pharaoh's own daughter enters the story in v5.

- She came to "bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river."

- Again, I doubt that Moses' mother placed the basket in a spot where she knew the princess would go to wash.

- She was an Egyptian, after all. And the murderous decree was given by her own flesh and blood father.

- This would seem to be the end of baby Moses if he were found by the princess.

- But that's not what happened.

- "She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it."

In v6 we're told that she opened the basket, sees the baby crying, and had compassion for him.

- She recognized him to be a Hebrew baby. Possibly because of circumcision, facial features, or most

glaringly, that he was carefully abandoned in the midst of a decree to kill all Hebrew baby boys.

- But, strangely enough, she doesn't care that he is a Hebrew. She wants to take him in and raise him as her own son.

Miriam saw what was happening and read the situation very well for a young girl.

- In v7 she says, "Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"

- Miriam knows just the woman to bring: She and her brother's own mother!

- What a clever girl! What quick thinking! And all of this face to face with the Egyptian princess!

- And in v8, the princess tells her, "Go."

- So Miriam went and go Jochebed and brought her to the princess.

DO YOU SEE ALL OF THIS?

- The basket was hidden, but here comes Pharaoh's daughter, seemingly at random, to bathe in the exact right location.

- Of all the place in the Nile, she chose that place.

- The basket was hidden among the reeds, but apparently the princess was in just the right place in the water and at just the right angle to see it and/or hear the baby's cry.

- When she discovered it was a Hebrew baby boy, she didn't care and decided to disobey her own father, the king.

- According to all customer, she should've obeyed her father. But she didn't care to risk her life by disobeying

him all for the sake of a Jewish baby boy that she had no connection to at all, because her heart was full of pity and compassion for him.

- As Proverbs 21:1 tells us, “The king’s heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever HE will.”

- God controls the heart of the princess, as he governs the hearts of all men. So she has pity.

And none of this is even to mention the fact that no animal killed the baby in the crocodile infested Nile River.

- God controls all animals. God can shut the mouths of lions for Daniel and the mouths of crocodiles and whatever else was in the Nile for Moses.

And the current of the river had not pulled the basket out of the reeds and taken it out to sea to drown the child.

- Our God controls nature. The winds and the waves obey Him.

Brothers and sisters, see all of this:

- God providentially put Pharaoh’s daughter in the right place, at the right time, changed her heart to have compassion, and kept animals and the river from harming the baby.

- And then the kicker is that Miriam, of her initiative, had decided to stick around to see what would happen.

- So she was in the right place at the right time to suggest a nurse for the child!

Answer me: What are the chances of all of this happening?

- According to all human reason and expectation, the baby should've died from nature or the princess should've had him thrown into the Nile.
- But here we are! And the child lived.
- And there was Miriam at the ready to suggest the baby's own mother to feed him.
- And the princess agreed!
- This is crazy! This is the nothing else but the Hand of God on Moses' life.
- This is God's Providence at work.

In the final two verses, we read that Miriam goes and gets Jochebed.

- And the princess agreed to PAY HER to feed HER OWN SON until he is weaned.
- And not just feeding, the baby was to LIVE WITH JOCHEBED until he was weaned. The text says, "Take this child AWAY and nurse him for me..."
- Moses would've then spent the 3-4 years with his mother. (That's how long ancients tended to nurse their children.)
- He would've grown up in his own native home until the time came to give him to the princess.
- And once that time came, Pharaoh's daughter named him "Moses." This was an act of formal adoption.

See Providence at work yet again:

- God guided things so that Moses' mother was paid to care for her own baby.
- He worked it out so the child would be raised to know

the God of his father, to some degree. And also to know that he was a Hebrew and not an Egyptian.

- And, in the end, Moses was raised in Pharaoh's own household where lived as a prince of sorts and received excellent care and education at the hand of PHARAOH'S OWN DAUGHTER.

- God took Pharaoh's plan and completely destroyed it.
- God's chosen Deliverer was born, kept safe, preserved, raised, and educated right under Pharaoh's nose and in spite of every effort to kill him.

Brothers and sisters, do you see the Hand of God in this text?

- God is not explicitly mentioned in this narrative. But His fingerprints are all over every person, thing, and event.

- God was at work to keep Moses alive.

2.) This narrative reminds us of the truth of God's sovereign Providence.

- As I said in the introduction, God's Providence is His governing of all His creatures and all their actions according to His holy will and plan.

- Providence is God's direction of all things to the ends for which He has made them.

- God works in His creation to bring His eternal decree to pass.

- And He does so in such a way that, though we cannot fully explain it, His creatures still do exactly as they will and at the same time are doing exactly as He willed them to do in His eternal counsels.

- Brothers and sisters, God reigns over all things and

directs all things.

Psalm 103:19 says, “The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all.”

- That’s a universal statement. His Kingdom, His dominion, His reign is OVER ALL.
- Not one thing happens apart from Him. Not one thing can come to pass without His say so.
- And this reign extends to every part of the universe.
- As Psalm 135:6 says, “Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all the deeps.”
- Every realm is under the control of God. Heaven, earth, the seas, and even the deepest Hell.
- There is not one square inch anywhere in all creation over which God does not reign and work His holy will.

God’s Providential rule extends to the actions of men.

- Proverbs 16:9 says, “The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.”
- We do things. We plan our ways and we walk in them.
- And at the exact same time, every person does exactly what God, in His secret will, has determined them to do.
- Every action of man, whether good or bad, is under God’s rule and will, in the end, accomplish His holy purposes for the world and His People.

Even the seemingly random things in life are governed by God.

- Proverbs 16:33 says, “The lot is cast into the lap, but

its every decision is from the LORD.”

- God rules over the things we think are random. Nothing, then, is actually random. God guides and directs it all.

- If every roll of the dice is governed by God to fall exactly as He wills, then how much more are the significant things in life governed by Him?

Brothers and sisters, God reigns over all creation.

- His Providence extends to everything: Man, animal, nature, all realms, all things.

- As Charles Spurgeon once said, “I believe that every particle of dust that dances in the sunbeam does not move an atom more or less than God wishes.”

- God controls all things that come to pass. He controls every outcome.

- He gives and He takes away. He makes rich and He makes poor. He raises up kingdoms and takes down kingdoms. He gives life and He takes life. He makes healthy and He makes sick. God reigns.

- Now, listen: He uses secondary causes to do these things. People really do things. He uses people and places and things in His plan.

- But even in all the freedom of men to act as they desire, God’s will is always done! EVERY. SINGLE. TIME.

God is running the show. God is in charge. God is control of all things.

- We see that here in our text this morning.

- And this ought to remind each one of us that He is governing all things in our lives.

- There are no accidents. There is no such thing as “chance” in God’s world. There is no such thing as “coincidence” or “luck.”

- God rules over all His creatures and all their actions at every moment of every day.

- To deny this is to functionally become an atheist.

- Because God IS, and because He is infinite in power and infinite in sovereignty, because He is GOD, there is no such thing as chance in this world.

- God reigns.

Brothers and sisters, God is running your life.

- Do you believe this?

- Do you believe that everything in your life is from the Hand of a sovereign God who is perfectly righteous, good, wise, and holy?

- You should. Because it’s true.

- God is running your life. God is guiding your life according to His will for you, for His glory, and for the ultimate good of His People.

My dear friends, knowing this should change us.

- It ought to keep us from complaining when life is hard. Because even our hardship comes from the Hand of a good God who loves us and has good reasons for whatever the difficulty is.

- It ought to keep us in constant praise for kindness. Because every good thing we have has come from Him as He governs our lives.

- This ought to keep us in constant prayer for His help. Because He actually rules all things and He can work our difficulties out, make our paths straight, give us

grace to endure, and do us good in all our trials.

Brothers and sisters, God's Providential rule ought to comfort you: YOUR GOD REIGNS. And so, nothing is out of His control.

- Oh, your life may very much be out of your control. But it is in the Hand of the God of Providence.

- Just as the Hand of God was upon Moses, so also is that same Hand upon you, His People.

3.) Now let's get personal for a minute. Consider God's Providence in your own life.

- I can't help but to imagine that Moses, all his life, heard the story of how God kept and preserved Him.

- During the three to four years he would've heard about what God did for him from the perspective of people who knew the Living God.

- And then I'm sure his adoptive mother told him the same from her perspective.

- Moses would've learned, from a young age, about God's care for him.

- And this would've, no doubt, taught him to trace the Hand of God over his life.

Brothers and sisters, can you trace the Hand of God in your own life?

- Think about the times that God has preserved you from death.

- Think of how often He has kept you from trouble.

- Consider how often He has provided for your needs when you saw no way forward.

- How many times has He intervened in your life to do

you good?

- How many times, in the darkest night, has God showed up to relieve you of your suffering and in a way that you had never saw coming?

- And all of this is only to consider what we might call “blatant acts of Providence.” This isn’t even considering how all of our “normal” day-to-day blessings and enjoyments are from the Hand of God.

And, dear Christian, surely you can trace God’s Hand in how He saved your soul.

- Remember how He brought you to Christ.
- Maybe you were raised by godly parents who taught you the Gospel from infancy.
- Do you think that just happened? NO! That was God!
- That was His Providence in your life to give you such parents that you might hear the Gospel of His beloved Son and be saved!
- Or maybe you were converted in later years.
- Think of how God placed the right people in your life at the right time to preach Christ to you.
- Think of how He humbled you in just the right way to make you see your need for the blood of Christ.
- Think of all the means He used in your life to bring to you to repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- None of that was accidental! None of that was chance!
- That was Almighty God working in history, working in your life, even through people, to bring you to salvation, as He had planned for you before the earth was formed.

Now, there are hard providences. That is for sure.

- And we simply do not always understand why God

does what he does and ordains what He ordains.

- Maybe you've had to undergo many unhappy times.
- But, even with that, consider how He has kept you through them, kept you in His grace, given you the right friends, given you the right encouragement, and given you the strength to endure and get through.
- Both the hardship and the escape came from Him.

Thinking on these things makes us say with the Psalmist, "What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits to me?" (Psalm 116:12)

- His benefits to us are more than we can number.
- And they all have come to us by His sovereign will and holy Providence.
- Praise Him! Praise Him with your whole heart!
- Render to Him the praise due to His name!
- Give Him yourself. It's not much. But it's all you have.
- Love, praise, worship, and live for this God who has so richly blessed you throughout your entire life!
- He has saved your soul! And He has given you every other good thing as well. Praise Him!

You know, the Providence of God is often invisible to the unbeliever.

- They do not see God's care of them because they do not wish to see or praise Him for it.
- But to the eye of faith, it is as easily seen as the noonday sun.
- Brothers and sisters, recognize and own the work of God in your life, the Hand of God upon your life, and give Him the praise due to Him.
- Say with Nehemiah, "...the good hand of my God was

upon me.” (2:8)

4.) Looking back to our text, I want us to now consider how God’s Providential care of Moses points us to our Lord Jesus Christ and the faithfulness of God to save His People.

- God preserved the infant Moses. But why?
- Answer: Because God had chosen this child to be His deliverer.
- God plan was to rescue His People from Egypt. And He would not be stopped.
- God intended to save His People. And Pharaoh was not going to stand in the way of that. So God overrule the schemes of Pharaoh by His sovereign providence.

God had a Plan to fulfill. God had a covenant to keep!

- God had covenanted with Abraham that after enduring four centuries of slavery in a foreign land, He would bring the Israelites into the Promised Land.
- And God had chosen to use Moses to work salvation for Israel.
- So He preserved His chosen instrument of redemption in order to keep His covenant.
- God is faithful to His word. So God preserved Moses.
- God intended to save Israel. And that’s what He was going to do. So He worked all things to that end.

And what happened with Moses is really a foreshadowing of something greater in Jesus Christ.

- It’s a type that finds its fulfillment in the life of Christ.

The life of Moses is a dark picture of the more glorious work of Christ.

You see, in Matthew 2 we read of the plot of King Herod to kill the infant Christ.

- The Wise Men came to Jerusalem looking for the newborn King of the Jews. And king Herod told them to come back and tell him where the baby was, once they found Him.

- But Herod did not intend to worship Him. Herod intended to kill Him. He did not want a rival king.

- So after the Wise Men find Jesus and worship Him and give Him gifts, God warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

- And then God sent an angel to Joseph in a dream and told him to take Mary and Jesus and flee to Egypt.

- Herod then sent and killed all the male children in the region of Bethlehem age two and under. But Jesus escaped.

- After Herod died, God sent another angel to Joseph in a dream to tell him to go back to Israel.

- Warned in yet another dream, Joseph took Mary and Jesus to Nazareth, where Jesus was finally safe from any murderous king.

- What Providence! God's Hand was upon His eternal Son to preserve His life.

- God governed the situation, sent angels, granted a safe trip to Egypt with a baby, provided for them while in Egypt, thwarted another king, and kept Jesus alive despite all the plans of those who hate God and His People.

- God kept His Redeemer alive!

And why? Because, as with the Israelites in Egypt, God had a Covenant to keep!

- The Covenant of Redemption from all eternity between the Father and the Son concerning the salvation of the Elect.

- The Father had chosen a People to save. And He gave to the Son to redeem. There was a Covenant within God to save His People from their sins.

- And so, God's Redeemer, must not die as an infant, but must live so that He can later willingly lay down His life as the sacrifice for sinners.

God is faithful.

- He keeps covenant. And He works in history to bring about the fulfillment of His promises.

- Namely, God works providentially to bring about the salvation of His People.

- God kept Moses to work national salvation for Israel.

- And God kept Jesus Christ to work full salvation for the Israel of God, His People, both Jew and Gentile.

- Moses points us to Christ, the true and greater Redeemer, Deliverer, and Savior of the People of God!

See this, brothers and sisters:

- God's will was to save you from your sins, just as His will was to save the Israelites from their slavery.

- And so, just as with Moses, God acted in sovereign power to ensure that the Savior did not die as a murdered infant but would grow up to work righteousness on your behalf and willingly lay down His life as the atoning sacrifice for your sins.

- God was committed to His plan and promise to save your soul. So He governed all His creatures and all their actions in history to bring it to pass.

- See that, Christian. See His power. See His reign. And see His love for you.

**5.) Brothers and sisters, this God can be trusted.
Your God can be trusted.**

- He rules over all things for His glory and your good.
- Do you see? Do you believe this?
- You can commit your entire life to the One who rules over all things in love for you.
- Praise Him! And trust Him with your whole heart!

Look back on your life and see His Hand upon you.

- Look forward to the future and know that the same God of Providence will keep you then, too.
- And when you're tempted to doubt His faithfulness, kindness, or ability, remember how He kept alive your Savior so that He might grow up to die for your sins, save your soul, and bring you to God, according to His eternal Plan.

Your God reigns.

- He loves you. He has kept you. He will keep you.
- And you can trust Him.
- May God give us grace to do so.
- Amen.