

Foundations of Divine Providence

(from Stephen Charnock's *Divine Providence*)

God Alone has the Right to Govern the World

- Since God made all things, He is the rightful Lord and Ruler over all things.

God Alone is Qualified to Rule

- Only God is all-powerful.
- Only God is Holy and Righteous.
- Only God is all-knowing.
- Only God is perfect in patience.

There is No Logical Reason for God Not to Govern

- Nothing is too difficult for God.
- God does not disparage His creatures.

God Preserves as He Governs the World

- Nothing takes place in the world without God's knowledge.
- Nothing takes place in the world outside of God's will.
- Nothing exists without God's care and power.

God's Authority to Govern and Sustain Creation is Fulfilled in Christ

- God has granted all power and authority to a Man.

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- 1) What is the relation between God's power in creation and God's power in providence?
- 2) How does Scripture connect creation and providence? Read Nehemiah 9:6 as an example.
- 3) Why are God's righteousness and omnipotence so crucial to His providence?
- 4) One of the points in the sermon was that "nothing happens outside of the will of God." Read Job 1:6-12 and 2:1-6; what do you notice about God's providence in these passages? How and why does God allow evil to operate within His providence?
- 5) Read Matthew 28:18-20; what does Jesus say about the providence of God in this passage?
- 6) Read Luke 24:50-51 and Mark 16:19; How does the ascension of Christ play such a significant role in the foundation of divine providence?