

UNSTOPPABLE

The Mission of God in the Book of Acts



SEASON 3: THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

Ends of the Earth Providence

Acts 23:12-35

September 13, 2026

God is purposely at work behind the scenes to advance the Gospel through His people.

1) God can use the small to thwart the aggressive. (12-22)

2) God can use the mighty to protect His agenda. (23-35)

Additional Scripture:

Philippians 1:6-7

Psalms 93:5

Proverbs 21:1

"Providence is God's purposeful sovereignty." - John Piper, Providence

Heidelberg Confession Q27: What do you understand by the providence of God?

A: The almighty, everywhere-present power of God, whereby, as it were by His hand, He still upholds heaven and earth with all creatures, and so governs them that herbs and grass, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, meat and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, indeed, all things come not by chance, but by His fatherly hand.

Whatever my God ordains is right

His holy will abides

I will be still whate'er He does

And follow where He guides

Whatever my God ordains is right

He makes my feet to stand

Though sorrow, need, or death be mine

He holds me in His hand

-Sandra McCracken, Sweet Comfort

ICE BREAKER: Share a moment of God's providence on display in your life.

DISCUSSION

God is not directly named as acting in this passage, yet His providence is everywhere. What details in the text help us see that God is not absent simply because He seems silent?

What is difficult about understanding the theology of providence? What is hopeful about the theology of providence? What scriptures help you?

PRAY

- Thank God that nothing in your life comes to Him by surprise.
- Ask Him to strengthen your confidence in His purposeful sovereignty.
- Ask Him to keep Redemption faithful to His mission here, near, and far.

ASSESS

Where in your life are you currently tempted to believe that God is absent because you cannot see what He is doing or challenges your confidence that God's purposes are "very trustworthy"?

When opposition, uncertainty, or delay comes, do you tend to assume something has gone wrong, or do you leave room for the possibility that God is working through it?

APPLY

What current situation do you need to entrust more fully to God's providence rather than trying to control the outcome yourself?

What would it look like for you to take the next faithful step this week while trusting God with the parts of the story you cannot yet see?

PRAY:

- Ask God to use your family circumstances, work pressures, health challenges, and relationships, etc. for gospel opportunities.
- Ask God to help you recognize the people and circumstances He may be using around you and to step into His will.