



# Chapter 1

## Divine Providence

3-4 Days

**Leading  
Idea**

### *Divine Providence*

Student Text, page 1

- Webster defined *divine* as “Pertaining to the true God; (4) Proceeding from God.”

- *Providence* is defined as “the care and superintendence which God exercises over his creatures.”

- “Essentially, there are only two interpretations of History, two views of God—that which is Biblical and that which is unbiblical—the Providential interpretation and the pagan interpretation.

“The pagan mind refuses to receive Christianity and is disposed to reject and oppose the authority of the Bible, God’s Word. Everything pertaining to life and living is approached from the standpoint of what the human intellect can gather, systematize, and formulate through the experiences of the physical senses . . .

“In contrast to the pagan interpretation of History is the Providential interpretation of History . . .

“The Providential approach to History presupposes order and purpose, deliberateness on the part of God the Creator, whose manner it is to overrule the pur-

poses and cross purposes of men, to bring about the actual events of history. From this approach to history, men and nations become, in effect, the peculiar agents of Divine Providence which governs and directs the course of this world, moving it forward to its destined conclusion.”<sup>7</sup>

Katherine Dang, *Universal History, Volume I*

- There are various elements of God’s Providence which may be discerned throughout Scripture, as well as in the study of history.

- God cares for His creation
- God “superintends” or governs His creation
- God controls events according to His plan. Genesis 50:20.

- God controls His creation. He is the one who gives life and takes life. He has a design for each individual’s life. He also has a plan for each nation.

- See Rev. S. W. Foljambe’s statements regarding history, Teacher’s Guide, pages 1 and 2.

### *For Reflection and Reasoning*

- What is Divine Providence? Use *Student Activity Page 1-1* to record *Suggested Student Notes* at the top of the page.

Reason and discuss from the Student Text to identify key ideas of God’s Providence. Following are suggestions:

- **God cares for all of His creatures**—the birds, fish, and animals.

- **God cares even more for each person.** He has a plan for each person.

- **God has a plan for each nation.**

The students may record these statements. Cut and glue the appropriate picture next to each statement, *Student Activity Page 1-2*.

### *Suggested Student Notes*

**Providence is God's care and control of His creation, including men and nations.**

- His plan
- His provision
- His protection

**Leading  
Idea**

***God controls the battle.***

Student Text, pages 2-3

- As God is “timing all events in the interest of his Christ”, He guides the outcome of each battle with the enemy. This battle may be in the daily walks of life or on the battlefield.

- As David faced Goliath, he went forth in confidence, knowing “the battle is the Lord’s.”

“David speaks with as much assurance as Goliath had done, but upon better ground; it is his faith that says, ‘*This day will the Lord deliver thee into my hand*, and not only thy carcase, but the carcasses of the host of the Philistines, shall be given to the birds and beasts of prey.’ (3.) He devotes the praise and glory of all to God. He did not, like Goliath, seek his own honour, but the honour of God, not doubting but by the success of this action, [1.] All the world should be made to know that there is a God, and that the God of Israel is the one only living and true God, and all other pretended deities are vanity and a lie. [2.] All Israel . . . shall *know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear* (v. 47), but can, when he pleases, save without either and against both, Ps. xlv. 9. . . .”

Matthew Henry, *Commentary*

- II Chronicles 20:15. “*Be not afraid*; you

have admitted fear enough to bring you to God, do not now admit that which will drive you from him again. *The battle is not yours*; it is not in your own strength, not for your own cause, that you engage; *the battle is God’s*: he does and will, as you have desired, interest himself in the cause.”

Matthew Henry, *Commentary*

- When the Israelites faced Jericho, the Lord gave them unique instructions for carrying out the conquest. Note Matthew Henry’s comments regarding this plan: “(4.) it was to try the faith, obedience, and patience, of the people, to try when they would observe a precept which to human policy seemed foolish to obey and believe a promise which in human probability seemed impossible to be performed. They were also proved whether they could patiently bear the reproaches of their enemies and patiently wait for the salvation of the Lord. Thus by faith, not by force, the walls of Jericho fell down. . . . The strongest and highest walls cannot hold out against Omnipotence; they needed not to fight, and therefore needed not to fear, because God fought for them.”

Matthew Henry, *Commentary*