

LORD'S DAY 10

Q27. What do you understand by the providence of God?

A. The almighty and ever-present power of God¹ by which God upholds, as with his hand, heaven and earth and all creatures, and so rules them² that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink,³ health and sickness,⁴ prosperity and poverty—⁵ all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but by his fatherly hand.

1. Acts 17:25[–28] – “nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.”

2. Heb. 1:3 – “He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,”

3. Jer. 5:24 – “They do not say in their hearts, ‘Let us fear the Lord our God, who gives the rain in its season, the autumn rain and the spring rain, and keeps for us the weeks appointed for the harvest.’”

Acts 14:17 – “yet he has not left himself without a witness in doing good, giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons and filling you with food and your hearts with joy.”

4. John 9:3 – “Jesus answered, ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him.’”

5. Prov. 22:2 – “The rich and the poor have this in common: the Lord is the maker of them all.”

Q28. How does the knowledge of God’s creation and providence help us?

A. We can be patient when things go against us,¹ thankful when things go well,² and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father³ that nothing in creation will separate us from his love.⁴ For all creatures are so completely in God’s hand that without his will they can neither move nor be moved.⁵

1. Rom. 5:3 – “And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance,”

James 1:3 – “because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance.”

Job 1:21 – “He said, ‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return there; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.’”

2. Deut. 8:10 – “You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.”

1 Thess. 5:18 – “give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

3. Rom. 5:5–6 – “and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.”

4. Rom. 8:38–39 – “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

5. Job 1:12 – “The Lord said to the accuser, ‘Very well, all that he has is in your power; only do not stretch out your hand against him!’ So the accuser went out from the presence of the Lord.”

Job 2:6 – “The Lord said to the accuser, ‘Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life.’”

Acts 17:28 – “For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we, too, are his offspring.’”

Prov. 21:1 – “The king’s heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will.”