

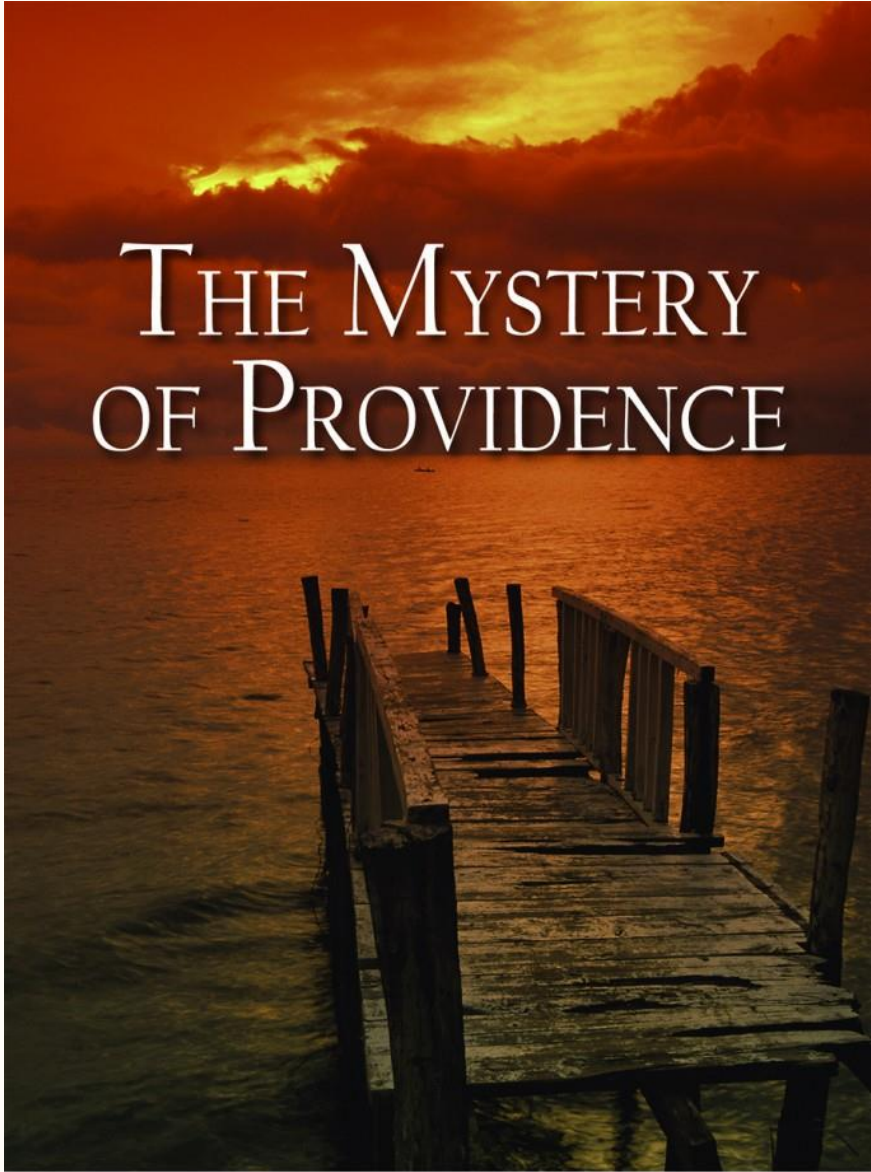


**Psalm 40:5**

**The Wonder  
of God's  
Works – (2)**

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**Providence  
(part 1)**



# THE MYSTERY OF PROVIDENCE

PURITAN PAPERBACKS  JOHN FLAVEL



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# The Mystery of Providence

1. God, being supremely wise and holy and in infinite power and wisdom, has created all things and upholds, directs, controls and governs them, whether animate or inanimate, great or small.

This He does in accordance with His infallible foreknowledge and the free and unchangeable decisions of His will.

He fulfils the purposes for which He created them, so that His wisdom, power and justice, together with His infinite goodness and mercy, might be praised and glorified.

*Psalm 115:3 & 135:6... Daniel 4:35... Isaiah 46:10-11... Acts 15:18...  
Ephesians 1:11*

2. Nothing happens by chance or outside the sphere of God's providence.

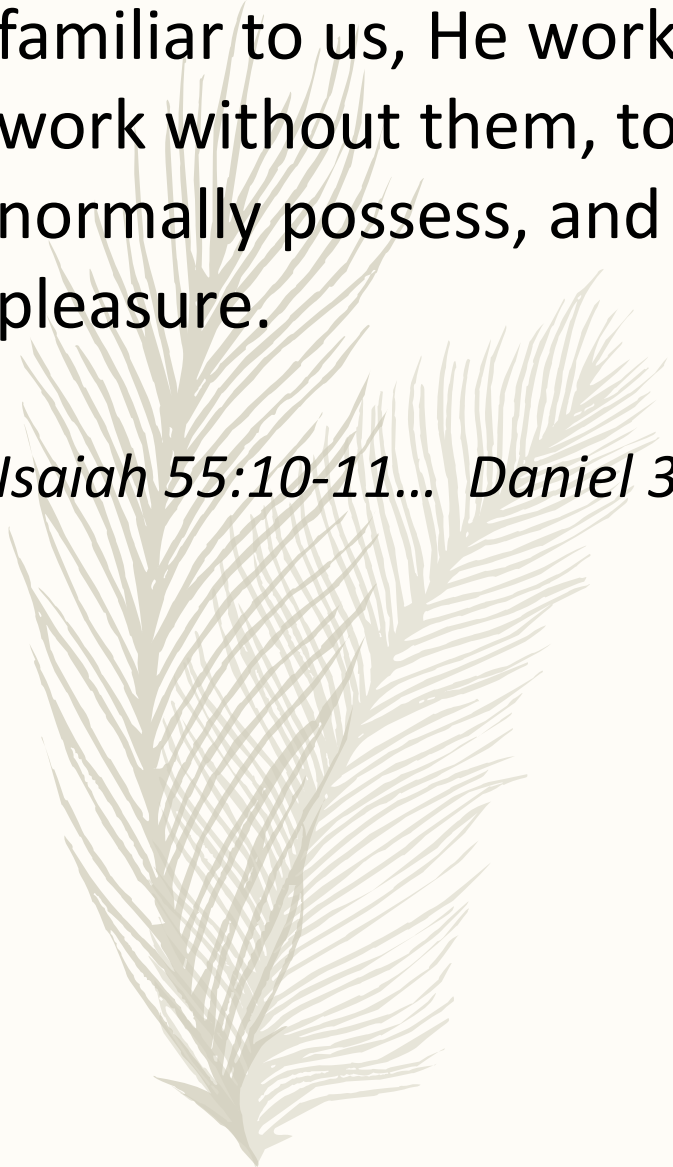
As God is the First Cause of all events, they happen immutably (*they can never be changed or altered*) and infallibly (*there will never be an error*) according to His foreknowledge and decree.

Yet by His providence God so controls them that He can utilise any part of His creation to bring about His purposes.

*Matthew 10:29... Proverbs 16:33, 19:21 & 21:1... Genesis 8:22*

3. Ordinarily, in His providence, God makes use of means familiar to us, He works in familiar ways; yet He is free to work without them, to give them efficacy above what they normally possess, and even to work contrary to them, at His pleasure.

*Isaiah 55:10-11... Daniel 3:27*



4. God's almighty power, unsearchable wisdom, and infinite goodness are so far-reaching and all-pervading, that both the fall of the first man into sin, and all other sinful actions of angels and men, proceed according to His sovereign purposes.

Yet the sinfulness involved in the actions proceeds only from angels and men and not from God who, being most holy and righteous, neither is nor can be the author or approver of sin.

*Genesis 50:20... Acts 2:23, 4:27-28... 1 John 2:16*

5. God allows His own people to fall for a time into a variety of temptations, and to experience the sinfulness of their own hearts.

He does this in order to chastise and discipline them for sins which they have committed, or to teach them humility by revealing to them the hidden strength of evil and deceitfulness remaining in their hearts.

*Romans 8:28... 2 Corinthians 12:7-9*



6. But God, as a righteous judge, deals differently with wicked and ungodly men and women. He gives them over to blindness and hardness of heart in their sins.

*Romans 1:24-26 & 28, 11:7-8*

