

I'm turning to Hebrews 13:6. "So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." This is a quotation from Psalm 118:6. *The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?*

We too may boldly say that we may be full of courage and say with confidence the Lord is my helper. King David who faced so many attacks – who faced great and terrible difficulties Had a deep deep trust in The Lord His Helper. The word Helper here has the meaning of one who runs to a call. He is the one who hears my cries and replies. The original word HELPER implies that a call is necessary. A prayer is necessary a Cry is necessary. People plotted physically against His life, people told lies against Him and spread rumors about Him. There were constant attacks against Him Yet in the Psalms we read about TRUST. We read about God who answers those who call. How God watches over How He cares, How He provides. How He governs. How his eye is upon all things.

**Today our Subject is the Providence of God.**

He is the God who is Gracious and kind and helps us , and answers our cries A God who provides things in advance. He sees all our needs and provides It involves all the government of God His creative power His sustaining and keeping power His ordering of all things . That's what we mean by the Providence of God.

In John Flavel's book on Providence - he begins his introduction with *Psa 47:2 For the LORD most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth.*

**Is most Terrible** - simply means The Lord most High **is to be revered**. For He is to be feared. **It means we stand in awe at His Majesty**. He is King over all the earth. **He is ruler over all**, both big and small. That which is seen and that which is unseen.

**He has gathered and rescued His Church** out of every tribe and nation and tongue. **His own** which **He rules** over and **provides** and **defends** and **keeps** in spite of all the rage of the world and the devil. This is who has befriended us, this is who our father is, and we are His Children. He is a great King.

Isn't it wonderful that God who is so High and so powerful and so Holy looks at the lowly. *"Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off."* (Psalms 138:6, KJV)

What does this phrase mean *yet hath he respect* *The meaning is our God* sees, he observes, He considers, he looks at – His eye is upon **He give s attention to those who Bow down humbly.** to them he comes. We read in Lukes gospel “Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.... Luke 12 6-8

When we think about this - Gods great love for the Lowly, Gods ear open to our Cries. This is a great Comfort and source of strength to us whenever distress falls upon us. **There is a Great and wise God governing our affairs.** His providence watches over us. Think about a loving mother if her child has a fever. Oh, she watches over she cares and tends that child. But although he r love is very great for the child, although she gives attention to every detail – it’s nothing compared to the Love and care God has for His children the detailed knowledge he has of each of them. **He even knows the exact number of hairs on our head.** The mother indeed loves her child but doesn’t have any idea of how many hairs the child has. Gods providence is more love, and more care, and more provision, We can scarlessly comprehend it. God has plans and intentions for us. He orders our steps with great precision and design. We know I’m sure the scripture . *“For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.” (Acts 17:28, KJV)*

*By His mighty power He organises and arranges everything even down to the littlest atom. He sustains everything. He cares for everything We are dependent upon God .*

**Some definitions of “Providence.”** The Providence of God.

- The doctrine of divine Providence is that **all things** are sustained, directed, and controlled by God. – Gods timing is absolutely perfect. The sun arises precisely at the time from morning to morning it’s never late or never early it is always on time. Gods’ providence is always on time.
- God’s works of providence are his **most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing** all his creatures and all their actions.

Gods voice propels and keeps the stars in orbit. Without Gods providence Atoms and planets - angels and devils - saints and sinners, can do nothing.

**Yet so often we all question Gods Providence**, we doubt it. We so easily **say my situation is so hard**. Too hard, too difficult. I am quick to include myself in this fault. Maybe a **disability**, maybe **bad health**, or I have had a **very great disappointment**. Maybe its **anxious and depressing thoughts** that get just too much at times that you can barely function. So many things that make us say we have had a hard life. Or prayers we have prayed that **seem unanswered**. When we begin to question or doubt Gods Providence That He has provided in advance for us- when we begin to think it's unreasonable and unfair. **We must remember who it is that we are doubting and questioning** His great wisdom. It's really doubting God Himself His goodness and kindness. This questioning and doubting takes us lower and lower. Yet trusting and believing is a source of great consolation.

We really will not understand until the other side of Eternity when we look back then we shall know and see the wisdom. But even upon this earth there are times we look back and marvel God has done all things well. We shall clearly see what the Lord achieved. What we keep in our minds now is God knows best. We trust Him even if we don't really understand. *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."* (Romans 8:28, KJV)

**In the end Good is always accomplished**. One day we shall see the whole design of Gods doings which we cannot understand in this world. we remember what The Lord Jesus said to Peter, it is very applicable to us in some of the situations we now endure and do not understand. *"Jesus answered and said to him, you do not know what I do now, but you shall know hereafter."* (John 13:7, MKJV).

One who knows God and trusts and has confidence in Gods Providence says *"Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns!"* Rev 19:6

**David the Psalmist knew this only too well**. Even in the deepest trouble and difficulty. Even when he was being hunted by Saul.

We read in Psalm 57 *it starts with instructions to the chief Musician to set this to the tune DESTROY NOT - that's the theme of His Cry to God. and a Michtam of David.* 'Michtam' signifies 'Davids precious Jewel - Or a psalm that is worth its weight in Gold '

David is in Extreme danger. He pours out His soul in a heart felt prayer - DESTROY NOT – Let there be no slaughter. The enemies who wanted to destroy Him were outside the Cave. **There was no way of escape**. Then the

situation got even worse, Saul Himself entered the Cave. Davids's men saw this - Imagine the seriousness of the situation the danger of it. No wonder David said **my soul is among lions and I lie even among them that are set on fire** – what hope of escape was there now? Only immediate destruction could be expected. He could have easily given up hope and said this is too much. This is unreasonable and unfair. Yet he holds on and trusts in Gods Goldenness and provision.

**The situation as bad as it is, doesn't frighten Him out of believing God. He prays,** he cries out to the Lord. while he is in the jaws of death **BE MERCIFUL to me oh God Be merciful unto me for my soul trusts in you.** In the shadow of your wings, I will take refuge until these calamities are passed.

**Saul was right there in the cave.** There is no way David could have cried out aloud- He couldn't have even whispered a prayer without being heard. The prayers were most likely silent prayers of the heart, silent, **but intense** and **fervent, Prayers with a Holy passion.** Davids's courage is taken from the Sovereignty of God. **I WILL CRY TO GOD MOST HIGH-** Saul is High He is king - but **GOD IS HIGHER. HE IS MOST HIGH** and **without Gods permission Saul is unable to do him any harm.** He is confident without Gods permission Saul can't touch Him. —Saul cannot go even 1 mm breadth beyond the Divine license! **He had no possible help from man in this situation, Buts Gods Help was more than enough-** We see David trusting in the providence of God. *Because of His strength I will wait upon Him for God is my defence Psalm 59:9.* We see He says **THE LORD WILL PERFECT THAT WHICH CONCERNS ME. He cries unto God** and sees. God as the one “who is the well doer”. “The one who profits and benefits me”. I cry unto God that performs his kindness and mercy.’ I will cry unto the one who performs all things.

**THIS PROVIDENCE NEVER ONCE FAILED DAVID** in all His troubles. And neither will His providence fail us. When we look to the scriptures it will give us such an encouragement of Gods caring and watching over the affairs and concerns of all His children. **God is interested in all that concerns us.** His eye is upon everything that relates unto us things pertaining all our lives from first to last **Not just the great and important matters** but also **the ordinary everyday things** are managed and governed by God. **Gods Providence touches all things that touch us.**

Providence not only undertakes, but perfects that which concerns us. It goes through to completion that which it begins. Nothing can stop it, or hinder it, It is God performing it for us.

**Now when the Psalmist considered this, what cheer and encouragement came to His soul.** What Hope inspired His heart during this dark and desperate situation. When there was just a hairs breath between him and certain death - His soul inspired Him to Cry unto God – to look to God who preforms all things for me.

It is from this text and also many more like it texts through the entire Bible. **We draw the Doctrine of PROVIDENCE . Such a comforting doctrine.** It means to provide for, in advance, to see to all our needs and our wants to provide for us. It is really a term which includes **all the government of God, His creative power, his sustaining** and keeping power, his **ordering of all things.** That's the providence of God.

It is the duty, but also it is very helpful to reflect on Gods Providence, especially in times of deep trouble **to reflect on the examples of Gods Providence for ourselves. But not only in trouble in all circumstances.** If seeing How the Lord delivered those in Scripture is a great encouragement, imagine the encouragement when we experience Gods Providences First Hand.

**As we look at Scripture we see the most amazing providences of God.** We have just seen an example and know **How the Lord delivered David from the hand of Saul.** Providence connected to Prayer - David Cried and God heard.

Another **example of Gods Providence is Mordecai and Esther** How God delivered them from Haman's evil plot. The lord's wisdom is seen in arranging the smallest events which produce great results.

While Haman was planning the Gallows to hang Mordecai, that very night the King couldn't sleep. How the Lord caused Him to have a sleepless night, the King doesn't call for His minstrels to play soothing music - He calls for a book not a warm and moving story book but the book of Chronicles of the empire. **Of all the many books of Chronicles the one chosen was the story of how Mordechai discovered conspiracy against the King.** How come that book was chosen? The Lord knew there was a record of Mordecai and guided right to the page. Now the king is stirred He is no longer thinking of sleep. He asks if this good man Mordacai has he been rewarded.

**He has had No reward!** He must be rewarded at once.... Just by chance ... Haman is standing in the door of the King... But you know I'm sure the story. Haman had to parade and Honour Mordacai through the streets. **Gods purpose was in the King not being able to sleep.** His hand was in it, even these little details - The next day at the Banquet when the queen spoke of her sorrow over the Jews and pointed to wicked Haman. He was hanged upon His own Gallows.

**In Gods Providence We are called to be Active.** We see and take note God arranged the circumstances, but Mordecai and all the Jews fasted and cried to the Lord. **Prayer is a vital part of the providence of God.** Whenever you find God delivering His people, His people have been praying for that deliverance. **We are to rest confidently in Gods Providence, but we are not idle we pray.** Esther did not just relax and say the Lord will do it. She both pleaded with God and risked her very own life for her peoples sake.

Prayer is also thanksgiving. The doctrine of providence fills the true believer's mouth and heart with praise and thanksgiving. Our mouths declare For the LORD *is* good; his mercy *is* everlasting; and his truth *endureth* to all generations.

It's very interesting This great victory or providence was to be remembered for all generations. **The feast of Purim was set up so that they Jews would not forget** and might refresh their memory of Gods mercy. To keep the memory of Gods sweet providence which God did for them. We also must reflect on these great biblical examples they will be a source of great encouragement to us.

**God Rules over all.** He watches over His own Children *"The steps of a good man are ordered by Jehovah; and He delights in his way."* (Psalms 37:23, MKJV)

From before the foundation of the earth God determined our path, He planned every detail He did it all out of love for us. But he also planned every provision that he would arrange for you We are in Gods hands The mighty one to whom I shall one day return forever. But there is one provision that we can not close without mentioning.

It is the provision of Salvation a Salvation so great. A deliverance do great - the one deliverance that must not be overlooked. It is an everlasting Salvation a deliverance from the Wrath to come. A deliverance from the power of darkness and the

terrible rule of sin. It's a deliverance from the consequence of Sin. Instead of death and separation there is hope and salvation There is a God of Grace who has Paid the price and made every provision. From the foundation of the world God chose – Have you chosen Him? He loved you from before you were born Have you showed your love to Him. Oh He died on the Cross that your sin may be forgiven. Have you asked Him to forgive you. Can you say I am His child and He is my God.