

Summary

Why is this happening to me? Is God in control? Does He know what He's doing?

At some point, perhaps recently, you have asked one of those unanswerable *why* questions that closely follow a difficult circumstance, ongoing trial or unexpected crisis. In contrast to what we feel, we know the Bible teaches that God is always good (Ps. 34:8, 107:1, Js. 1:17) and He works everything together for the good for those who are His (Rom. 8:28) to the degree that the most difficult of circumstances cannot get in the way of His intentions (Gen. 50:20). In God's providence, your circumstances are designed according to God's good intentions.

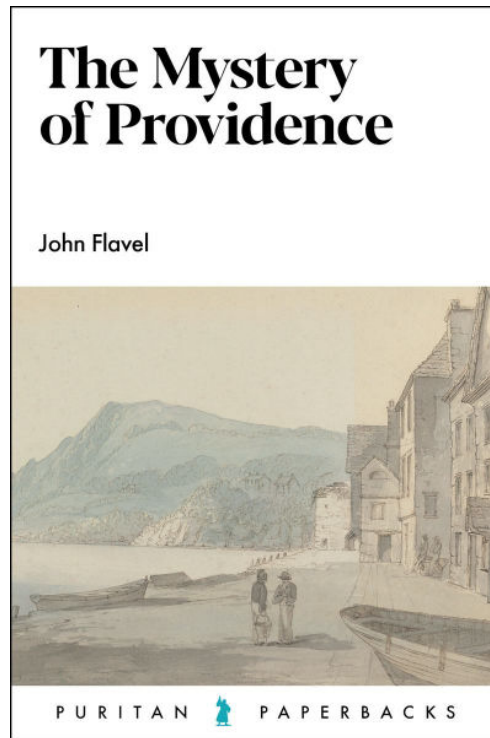
God's Providence can be defined by His sovereignty *over* all things and His purposes *in* all things. That is, nothing that happens in your life is happening outside God's control and nothing He brings into your life is without purpose. *The Mystery of Providence* is a fitting title because seeing God's purposes in every circumstance are not always intuitive. Flavel brings the biblical perspective we need to see our circumstances rightly by joining the sovereignty of God and the purposes of God in a way that produces endurance in the life of the believer.

The Reading Recommendations

February is a short month; *The Mystery of Providence* is a long book. Don't let that discourage you from picking up this excellent resource. 9-10 pages per day will get you through the book in February, however you might benefit from a slower pace. Whatever your pace, you will appreciate how Flavel brings a biblical perspective to disorienting circumstances right away.

As you interact with each chapter, keep a list of provisions from God that have worked together for your good and His purposes. Each chapter will add to your perspective on God's goodness and keeping a list of His provision in your life will strengthen your endurance to walk faithfully in whatever God has around the corner for you.

Steve Kovach  
Deacon



**Suggested One-Month Reading Plan**

(Average 9 pages per day)

**Week 1: Monday January 30th - Sunday February 5th**

Publishers Introduction, 11 pages  
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Part One The Evidence of Providence

1. The Work of Providence for the Saints, 19 pages
2. Our Birth and Upbringing, 21 pages

**Week 2: Monday February 6th - Sunday February 12th**

3. The Work of Conversion, 19 pages
4. Our Employment, 7 pages
5. Family Affairs, 11 pages
6. Preservation of the Saints from Evil, 10 pages
7. The Work of Sanctification, 13 pages

Part Two Meditation on the Providence of God

8. The Duty of Meditation on Providence, 5 pages

**Week 3: Monday February 13th - Sunday February 19th**

9. How to Meditate on the Providence of God, 31 pages
10. The Advantages of Meditating on Providence, 44 pages

**Week 4: Monday February 20th - Sunday February 26th**

9. How to Meditate on the Providence of God, 31 pages
10. The Advantages of Meditating on Providence, 44 pages

Part Three Application of the Doctrine of Providence

11. Practical Implications for the Saints, 5 pages
12. Practical Problems in Connection with Providence, 42 pages
13. The Advantage of Recording Our Experiences of Providence, 3 pages