

Psalms:

PRAYING & SINGING
OURSELVES UNTO

→ Praise



Psalm	Circumstance	Trouble/Threat	Confidence	Actions
56	Philistines seize him in Gath	Unrelenting crushing of sinful men (Habakkuk 1:3; II Peter 2:7-8; Hebrews 12:3)	God's praiseworthy WORD (3-4, 10-11)	Unsuspecting TRUST (3, 11)
57	Hiding from Saul in a cave (I Sam. 22? I Sam. 24?)	Ensnared or entrapped by cruel, predatory men (4, 6)	Providence of the Most High God (2)	

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TREEOLOGY
THEOLOGY

What is God's providence?

The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, and His sovereignty rules over all (NASB; Ps. 103:19).

Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps (NASB; Ps. 135:6)

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Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And *yet* not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered (NASB; Matt. 10:29-30).

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen (NASB; Rom. 11:36).

God's providence is *His most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing of all His creatures and all their actions, to His own glory.*

(Adapted from the *Westminster Shorter and Larger* catechisms, Qs. 11, 18)

Providence. Think of the word, *provide*. *Providence* concerns all that God *provides* for His creatures; their circumstances, sustenance, preservation, government, abilities, successes, failures, usefulness, etc.



What is the benefit of our knowing about God's providence?

I will cry to God Most High, to God who accomplishes *all things* for me (NASB; Ps. 57:2).

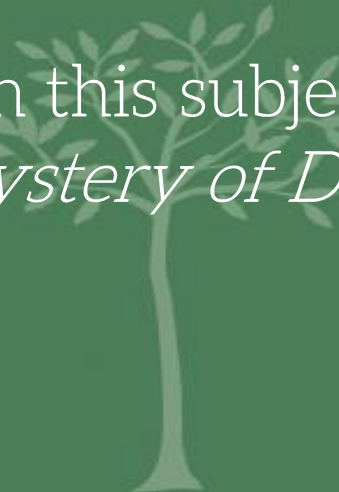
Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows (NASB; Matt. 10:29-31).

In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus (NASB; I Thess. 5:18).

The benefit of our knowing about God's providence is that it makes us *patient in adversity and thankful in prosperity*, so that *we may place our firm trust* in our Heavenly Father concerning everything that befalls us.

(Adapted from the *Heidelberg Catechism*, Q. 28)

For deeply reassuring teaching on this subject, read prayerfully John Flavel's, *The Mystery of Divine Providence*.



Doctrine: *It is the duty of the saints, especially in times of straits, to reflect upon the performances of Providence for them in all the states and through all the stages of their lives (Flavel).*

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The verb or noun occur in Psalms 2, 5, 7, 11, 14, 16, 17, 18, 25, 30, 31, 34, 36, 37, 46, 57, 61, 62, 64, 71, 73, 91, 94, 104, 118, 141, 142, and 144.

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1. My **shelter** (vs 1 and 6 other times).
2. My **shadow** (vs. 1 and 5 other times)

All the children of men [humanity] take **refuge** in the **shadow** of Your wings (Psalm 61:4).

3. My **fortress** (masada; vs. 2 and 5 other times)
4. His **wings** (vs. 4 and 5 other times)
5. My **shield** (vs. 4 and 5:12)

For it is You who blesses the righteous man, O LORD, You surround him with favor as with a **shield**.

6. My **bulwark** (vs. 4)
7. My **dwelling place** (vs. 9 and 2 other times)

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**Jesus, my shepherd, brother, friend,
my prophet, priest and king,
my Lord, my life, my way, my end,
accept the praise I bring.**

--John Newton, "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"

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PRAYING & SINGING —————→
OURSELVES UNTO **Praise**

**PSALMS
FESTIVAL**

June 28

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57	Flees from Saul in God (1), cry to	Destruction by "lions" a cave (4) (2)	God's grace (1) and providence Him as the Most High (2)	Take refuge in
58	? Unrighteousness (1-2)	God judges and rewards (11)	Imprecatory prayer (6-9)	
59	Saul sends men to and anticipation <i>watch the house</i>	Ambush for his life (3) (16-17)	God is <i>my stronghold</i> (9, 16, 17)	Petitions (1-2) of joyfully singing God's praise
60	War God has rejected the nation (1-3)	<i>Through God we shall do valiantly/He will tread down our adversaries</i> (12)	Petitions (5, 11)	