

Divine Providence

There is nothing random in the world. One of the basic characteristics of God is His Divine Providence.

Providence of God is God's way to see all that is going on, and will be going on in the future as though it is present, and to have omnipotent concern for safeguarding all creation and wisely managing all its manifestation.

St. John Damascene describes God's Providence this way: "Providence is Divine will, which maintained everything and wisely rules over everything".

If we examine any kind of events and manifestation without looking into their causes and consequences, then many things may appear random to us. However, if we look at them from a true point of view, that is, if we judge the things that happen around us from the viewpoint of Divine intelligence, then we will see that there is nothing in the world that occurs randomly, that occurs without the will and Providence of God.

God's mind is infinite and encompasses everything that we can fathom (understand). The Almighty God penetrates and sees all places in a single moment: the height of the heaven and the width of the earth, the depth of the sea and the unfathomable abyss. St. Augustine said: "Everything that we, without understanding the matter, believe to occur randomly, chaotically, and without God's direction, does, on the contrary, take place according to God's will". Let us explain this by means of example: a master sends two of his servants to the same place, but along different routes and without telling either of them of the other. Their meeting at that place is accidental as far as the servants are concerned, for they were not expected to meet each other, but is not accidental with respect to master.

Often we are deceived in calling accidental certain events in which God's supreme Wisdom and Providence are revealed. It was not by chance that robbers out of fear threw the body of person they killed into the tomb of the prophet Elisha, as we read in the Bible, where the dead man, upon touching Elisha's bones, immediately came alive. It was not by chance that Moses was placed in a tar-covered basket and sent down the river, where the Pharaoh's daughter found him and adopted him. It was not by chance,

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that a bird (swallows) flew into the house of Tobit and blinded righteous man. This happen at God's commend in order to hold Tobit up as an example to succeeding generation, as we learn from the angel who accompany his son Tobias (Bible).

Nothing happen by chance! It was not by chance that Caesar Augustus ordered the censes to be taken in the year of Christ's Nativity. It was not by chance that Christ met with Samaritan woman at the well in Sychar and spoke with her. All this and multitude others event was foreseen and written down in the books of Divine Providence before the beginning of time.

No effort on our part can protect us without God's help, but by the same token God's help without man's will (wish) NOT bring any benefit either - as we see in examples of Peter and Judas.

The holy apostle Peter fell – and we should be careful; Judas fell, in order to deter us from falling.

We should avoid one-sidedness by placing all care upon God, but equally we should not believe that by dint of our own effort, without God's help or will, can produce good results. Amen.