

DEFINITION OF PROVIDENCE

- 1. The expressions “providence of God,” and “divine providence” are not found in the scriptures.**
- 2. The English word providence is found only once and then it does not refer to God or divine providence.**
 - a. It is found in Ac.24:2 and has reference to the providence of Governor Felix.**
 - b. Here it is from the Greek term pronoia – pron’-oy-ah, meaning “forethought”; i.e., provident care or supply; provision.**
 - c. The only other place the original word pron’-oy-ah is used in the N.T. is in Rom.13:14 and is translated “provision”**
- 3. A kindred word is used three times in the N.T. and indicates the same ideas.**
 - a. The word pronoio – pron-o-eh’-o.**
 - (1) Rom.12:17, “provide things honest in the sight of all men.”**
 - (2) 2Cor.8:21, “providing for honest things...”**
 - (3) 1Tim.5:8, “But if any provide not for his own...”**
- 4. Still another word is found in Heb.11:40 – prob-lep’-o, and used with similar meaning; such as, “to foresee,” “to look out beforehand, i.e., furnish in advance.” “to provide.”**
- 5. Thus forethought and foresight implies a definite purpose, and also involves a practical arrangement by which the purpose may be achieved.**
- 6. Though the expression “divine providence” is not distinctly stated in the scriptures, it is plainly taught by every Biblical writer, with the meaning stated above, thus referring primarily to God’s looking ahead, his planning, his forethought, and then his making necessary arrangements in advance, rather than spur of the moment action to alter the chain of natural events.**
- 7. As commonly used, in the wider sense of the term it denotes the exercise of God’s wisdom, omnipotence, and goodness. As commonly used, in the narrower sense, it means God’s forethought in creation in which he made provision for the preservation, care, and government over this creation that the purpose or end for which it was created might be attained.**

