

God’s Amazing Grace – Part 2

God’s Inscrutable but Indisputable, All-Encompassing and Absolute Sovereignty

I perceived that whatever God does endures forever;
nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it.
God has done it, so that people fear before him.

Ecclesiastes 3:14

God is always fully and completely righteous, good, holy and perfect. God is just and fair not because it seems fair to us, but because He is. The Bible teaches that:

Job 34:12 Of a truth, God will not do wickedly, and the Almighty will not pervert justice.

Deuteronomy 32:4 "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.

Isaiah 5:16 But the LORD of hosts is exalted in justice, and the Holy God shows himself holy in righteousness.

Psalms 92:15 to declare that the LORD is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

Psalms 18:30 This God his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

Matthew 5:48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Here is a sweeping summary of specifics that help us to see the “PROVIDENCE”; “SOVEREIGNTY” “DECREES” of God revealing that ALL THINGS, AT ALL TIMES, IN ALL PLACES, ARE EXACTLY AS GOD INTENDED, DESIRES AND DECREED (predetermined) areas clearly covered by the decrees of God.

- **Every event of life** – (including day of death) Job 7:1; 14:5; Psa 139:16
- **Every element of nature** – Jer. 31:35; Psalm 148:8; Job 39:26ff
- **Every nation ruler and historic event** Acts 17:26; Daniel 4:35ff
- **Every smallest details** - Matthew 10:29, 30; Psalm 147:4
- **Every sinful act** - Genesis 50:20; Acts 2:23. 2 Sam. 24:1/1 Chron . 21:1
- **Every plan of men** - Proverbs 16:9; 19:21; 20:24; James 4:13-16.
- **Every supposed "Accident"** - Deuteronomy 19:4-6 and Exodus 21:12-14.
- **Every seeming "Luck" or "Chance"** - Proverbs 16:33 and Acts 1:24-26.

God’s Absolute Sovereignty encompasses ALL THINGS, totally and comprehensively.

1 Chronicles 29:10-12, 14 ¹⁰ Therefore David blessed the LORD in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. ¹¹ Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. ¹² Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your

hand it is to make great and to give strength to all...¹⁴ "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.

^{ESV} **Isa 44:24-45:12** ²⁴ Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: "I am the LORD, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself, ²⁵ who frustrates the signs of liars and makes fools of diviners, who turns wise men back and makes their knowledge foolish, ²⁶ who confirms the word of his servant and fulfills the counsel of his messengers, who says of Jerusalem, 'She shall be inhabited,' and of the cities of Judah, 'They shall be built, and I will raise up their ruins'; ²⁷ who says to the deep, 'Be dry; I will dry up your rivers'; ²⁸ who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill all my purpose'; saying of Jerusalem, 'She shall be built,' and of the temple, 'Your foundation shall be laid.'" ^{ESV} **Isaiah 45:1** Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed: ² "I will go before you and level the exalted places, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me. ⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, ⁶ that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. ⁷ I form light and create darkness, I make well-being and create calamity, I am the LORD, who does all these things. ⁸ "Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit; let the earth cause them both to sprout; I the LORD have created it. ⁹ "Woe to him who strives with him who formed him, a pot among earthen pots! Does the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?' or 'Your work has no handles'? ¹⁰ Woe to him who says to a father, 'What are you begetting?' or to a woman, 'With what are you in labor?'" ¹¹ Thus says the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and the one who formed him: "Ask me of things to come; will you command me concerning my children and the work of my hands?" ¹² I made the earth and created man on it; it was my hands that stretched out the heavens, and I commanded all their host.

Daniel 4:34-35, 37 ³⁴ At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; ³⁵ all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?""... ³⁷ Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

Lamentations 3:37-38 ³⁷ Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it? ³⁸ Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and bad come?

Amos 3:4-6 ⁴ Does a lion roar in the forest, when he has no prey? Does a young lion cry out from his den, if he has taken nothing? ⁵ Does a bird fall in a snare on the earth, when there is no trap for it? Does a snare spring up from the ground, when it has taken nothing? ⁶ Is a trumpet blown in a city, and the people are not afraid? Does disaster come to a city, unless the LORD has done it?

Job 2:10 ¹⁰ But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Psalms 115:3 ³ Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

Psalm 135:6-8 ⁶ Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.
⁷ He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth, who makes lightnings for the rain and brings forth the wind from his storehouses. ⁸ He it was who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, both of man and of beast;

Ephesians 1:11 ¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,

Not only the “Natural” but also the “Unnatural”

Mathew 5:45 ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Joshua 10:13-14 ¹³ And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jashar? The sun stopped in the midst of heaven and did not hurry to set for about a whole day. ¹⁴ There has been no day like it before or since, when the LORD heeded the voice of a man, for the LORD fought for Israel.

2 Kings 20:9-11 ⁹ And Isaiah said, "This shall be the sign to you from the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that he has promised: shall the shadow go forward ten steps, or go back ten steps?" ¹⁰ And Hezekiah answered, "It is an easy thing for the shadow to lengthen ten steps. Rather let the shadow go back ten steps." ¹¹ And Isaiah the prophet called to the LORD, and he brought the shadow back ten steps, by which it had gone down on the steps of Ahaz. (Isa. 38:8)

Many examples are given in the Scriptures: Regular Rain, flood, drought. Ordinary Harvests, abundant harvests, famines, food without harvest.

“Why do rivers flow where they do? Because God has directed them there (Psalm 104:10; Proverbs 21:1). Why does rain, snow, or hail fall where it does? Because God has sent it to that specific place at that specific time (Genesis 7:4; Exodus 9:18; Joshua 10:11; Job 38:22-23; Matthew 5:45). Why does lightning strike where it does? Because God has ordained its path (Job 38:25). Why is there such great variety in the characteristics and behavior of animals and birds? Because God has created each one to be and to do precisely what He pleases (Job 39). In God's providence, no event is truly "natural" and nothing is insignificant. He works *all things* according to the counsel of His will [Eph. 1:11].” (*Thinking and Speaking Biblical about The Providence of God, Daryl Wingerd, 2005*)

Not only the “Big” but also the “Small”. (“insignificant”, “incidental” or “inconsequential” things?)

Matthew 10:29-30 ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.

Luke 21:18 ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish.

Nehemiah 9:6 "You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.

Isa 46:11 calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.

Accidents?

Deuteronomy 19:4-5 ⁴ "This is the provision for the manslayer, who by fleeing there may save his life. If anyone kills his neighbor unintentionally without having hated him in the past-- ⁵ as when someone

goes into the forest with his neighbor to cut wood, and his hand swings the axe to cut down a tree, and the head slips from the handle and strikes his neighbor so that he dies-- he may flee to one of these cities and live,

Exodus 21:12-14 ¹² "Whoever strikes a man so that he dies shall be put to death. ¹³ But if he did not lie in wait for him, but God let him fall into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place to which he may flee. ¹⁴ But if a man willfully attacks another to kill him by cunning, you shall take him from my altar, that he may die. [לָקַח the Hebrew term for "let" (KJV "deliver") as a "piel verb" carries the sense of "caused to meet"; "caused to happen"]

Not only the "Good" but also Sovereign over the "Bad"

^{ESV} **Gen 50:19-20** ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

^{ESV} **Gen 45:5-9** ⁵ And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry.

^{ESV} **Gen 37:25-28** ²⁵ Then they sat down to eat. And looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. ²⁶ Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷ Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers listened to him. ²⁸ Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt.

Acts 2:23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

Acts 4:26-28 ²⁶ The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed'-- ²⁷ for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.

2 Samuel 24:1 Again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he incited David against them, saying, "Go, number Israel and Judah."

1Chronicles 21:1 Then Satan stood against Israel and incited David to number Israel.

Deuteronomy 28:63 ⁶³ And as the LORD took delight in doing you good and multiplying you, so the LORD will take delight in bringing ruin upon you and destroying you. And you shall be plucked off the land that you are entering to take possession of it.

1Samuel 2:25 ²⁵ If someone sins against a man, God will mediate for him, but if someone sins against the LORD, who can intercede for him?" But they would not listen to the voice of their father, for it was the will of the LORD to put them to death.

Joshua 11:20 For it was the LORD's doing to harden their hearts that they should come against Israel in battle, in order that they should be devoted to destruction and should receive no mercy but be destroyed, just as the LORD commanded Moses.

Isaiah 10:5-6 ⁵ Ah, Assyria, the rod of my anger; the staff in their hands is my fury! ⁶ Against a godless nation I send him, and against the people of my wrath I command him, to take spoil and seize plunder, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.

^{ESV} **Isa 10:7** ⁷ But he does not so intend, and his heart does not so think; but it is in his heart to destroy, and to cut off nations not a few;

^{ESV} **Isa 10:12-19** ¹² When the Lord has finished all his work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, he will punish the speech of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria and the boastful look in his eyes. ¹³ For he says: "By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom, for I have understanding; I remove the boundaries of peoples, and plunder their treasures; like a bull I bring down those who sit on thrones. ¹⁴ My hand has found like a nest the wealth of the peoples; and as one gathers eggs that have been forsaken, so I have gathered all the earth; and there was none that moved a wing or opened the mouth or chirped." ¹⁵ Shall the axe boast over him who hews with it, or the saw magnify itself against him who wields it? As if a rod should wield him who lifts it, or as if a staff should lift him who is not wood! ¹⁶ Therefore the Lord GOD of hosts will send wasting sickness among his stout warriors, and under his glory a burning will be kindled, like the burning of fire. ¹⁷ The light of Israel will become a fire, and his Holy One a flame, and it will burn and devour his thorns and briers in one day. ¹⁸ The glory of his forest and of his fruitful land the LORD will destroy, both soul and body, and it will be as when a sick man wastes away. ¹⁹ The remnant of the trees of his forest will be so few that a child can write them down.

Deuteronomy 2:30 But Sihon the king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him, for the LORD your God hardened his spirit and made his heart obstinate, that he might give him into your hand, as he is this day.

How about some Wisdom?

Proverbs 16:1 The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.

Proverbs 16:4 ⁴ The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.

Proverbs 16:9 ⁹ The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.

Proverbs 16:33 ³³ The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

Proverbs 19:21 ²¹ Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.

Proverbs 20:24 ²⁴ A man's steps are from the LORD; how then can man understand his way?

Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.

***declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying,
My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,
Isaiah 46:10***