

INSPIRATION AND PROVIDENCE

**THE REVELATION, TRANSMISSION
INTEGRITY & CANONICITY OF SCRIPTURE**



PROVIDENCE

What is providence?

- **Providence** – from Latin *providentia*, from *providere* ‘foresee, attend to’ (New Oxford American Dictionary)
 - “the protective care of God or of nature as a spiritual power; timely preparation for future eventualities” (ibid.)
- NT – **Acts 24:2** – “*providence*” (KJV, ASV, NASB)
 - *Pronoia* – forethought, i.e. provident care or supply (STRONG); thoughtful planning to meet a need, forethought, foresight, providence (BDAG)

PROVIDENCE

What is providence?

- “When applied to God, the word means His foresight and forethought in creating the universe whereby He could be in control and carry out His purpose to its ultimate consummation.” (Hailey, Homer, *Prayer and Providence*, 115)
- Presupposes His creation and government –
Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:2-3

PROVIDENCE

What is providence?

- Creation is an expression of God's will – **Psalm 33:6, 9**
 - Subject to God's use to continue to carry out His will –
Laws of Nature, Mankind
- Creation itself has a purpose – **Psalm 19:1; Genesis 1:27; Ecclesiastes 7:9; 12:13**
 - Mankind's failure set in motion a redemptive purpose –
Romans 3:23; Ephesians 3:1-12; 2:7 – includes written word to be preserved by God.

PROVIDENCE

The Correlation of Divine Revelation and Divine Providence

- **2 Timothy 3:15; John 20:30-31; 2 Peter 3:16** – involves some “conclusions from which necessary antecedent inferences and deductions must be drawn:”
(Wallace Jr., Foy E., *A Review of the New Versions*, 32)
 - “First, that God, the Creator, would communicate by revelation with man his creature”
 - “second, that the record of the stages in the development of this revelation be made”

PROVIDENCE

The Correlation of Divine Revelation and Divine Providence

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(Wallace Jr., Foy E., *A Review of the New Versions*, 32)
 - “third, that this record of revelation was made by its original inspired recipients, consisting of a collection of ‘the holy scriptures’”
 - “fourth, that the means and the methods for the record of revelation were providentially provided.” (ibid.)

PROVIDENCE

The Correlation of Divine Revelation and Divine Providence

- This correlation is evident throughout scripture –
Psalm 119:89; Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 24:35;
1 Corinthians 10:11; 1 Peter 1:24-25;
1 Corinthians 13:9-10; Jude 3; 2 Peter 1:3
- Can God do what He said He would? Did He do it? –
Numbers 23:19; Psalm 77:8; Hebrews 6:13-18

REVELATION & CONFIRMATION

Old Testament and Jesus

- Revelation and confirmation through miraculous evidence – Deuteronomy 4:32-36; Exodus 20:1-2; Ezekiel 2:5; 33:33; Jeremiah 28:9
- “For Christians, however, it suffices that the Hebrew canon of the Old Testament was accepted as divinely authoritative by our Lord and his apostles.” (F.F. Bruce)
- “We may, however, follow our Lord, who placed the *imprimatur* of His infallible authority upon the books of the Old Testament.” (E.J. Young)

REVELATION & CONFIRMATION

Old Testament and Jesus

- Jesus' view of the OT – John 10:35; Luke 24:44; Matthew 22:9; 2 Timothy 3:16
- Jesus' references to OT – Matthew 19:4; 23:35; Luke 17:27; 20:37; Matthew 12:40, 42; 24:15

REVELATION & CONFIRMATION

Old Testament and Jesus

- “Jesus is not only the key to the divine nature of the Old Testament, He is also the key to the extent of the Old Testament. The ‘extent’ of the Old Testament refers to the question of which books belong in it.” (Norman L. Geisler)
- **Luke 24:44** – law, prophets, psalms = entire OT
 - Apocrypha – Jews didn’t include them (**cf. Romans 3:2**); Jesus never alluded to them or quoted them.
 - Jesus quoted 24 of 39 OT books. NT quotes from all but 5.

REVELATION & CONFIRMATION

New Testament and Jesus

- "he [Jesus] who accredited the Old Testament retrospectively accredited the New Testament prospectively." (F.F. Bruce)
- Process of Revelation and Confirmation – **Hebrews 2:1-4**
- Jesus' prospective accreditation of the New Testament – **Ephesians 2:20; 3:3-5; Acts 1:1; Matthew 28:20; John 14:16-18, 25-26; 15:26-27; 16:12-15**

REVELATION & CONFIRMATION

New Testament and Jesus

- "he [Jesus] who accredited the Old Testament retrospectively accredited the New Testament prospectively." (F.F. Bruce)
- Revelation and confirmation of the New Testament of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit – **Luke 24:46-49; Mark 16:15-18; Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 12:12; 1 Corinthians 14:37; 2 Thessalonians 2:15; 2 Peter 3:16; Colossians 4:16**

REVELATION & CONFIRMATION

New Testament and Jesus

- "he [Jesus] who accredited the Old Testament retrospectively accredited the New Testament prospectively." (F.F. Bruce)
- Indisputable miraculous evidence confirmed these writings as the Holy Scripture of God.
 - God's providence guided the preservation of these confirmed texts throughout time.

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