

3ABN SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL

002 - MONDAY – APRIL 8, 2024

SSP@3abn.org

CHRISTIANS PROVIDENTIALLY PRESERVED

LESSON INTRO: Emergency measures become the most important focus in times of tragedy. The N.T.S.B. always seeks to get answers by securing the black box in airline disasters. To get answers for the tragedy of humanity we can get answers by securing the black book.

Psalm 46:1–3 (NKJV) “*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. (2) Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; (3) Though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling.*”

Isaiah 41:10 (NKJV) “*Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.*”

What do these passages tell us about God’s providential care?

1. **GOD IS SOVERIGN:** God rules over the plotting of man against His children. In all situations, God has the final say; God determines the outcome by His foreknowledge.
 - a. **Luke 8.17 NKJV** “*For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light.*”
 - b. **Psalm 62.6 NKJV** “*He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved.*”
2. **GOD IS PREEMPTIVE:** Nothing passes to God’s children without God’s permission. God never measured His grace, but He always measures out trials.

- a. **Romans 8:28 NKJV** “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.”

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NKJV) “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

- b. **Matthew 11:28 (NKJV)** “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

3. **GOD IS OUR INTERMEDIARY:** Nothing gets between God and His children.

- a. **Genesis 31:49 (NKJV)** “May the LORD watch between you and me when we are absent one from another.”

4. **GOD IS OUR SENTINAL:** God keeps watch over His children.

- a. **Psalms 34:19 (NKJV)** “Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all.”
- b. **Psalms 34:7 (NKJV)** “The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them.”

“They pray for Christlikeness of character, for a fitness for the Lord's work, and they are placed in circumstances that seem to call forth all the evil of their nature. Faults are revealed of which they did not even suspect the existence. Like Israel of old they question, “If God is leading us, why do all these things come upon us?”

It is because God is leading them that these things come upon them. Trials and obstacles are the Lord's chosen methods of discipline and His appointed conditions of success. He who reads the hearts of men knows their characters better than they themselves know them. He sees that some have powers and susceptibilities which, rightly directed,

might be used in the advancement of His work. In His providence He brings these persons into different positions and varied circumstances that they may discover in their character the defects which have been concealed from their own knowledge. He gives them opportunity to correct these defects and to fit themselves for His service. Often He permits the fires of affliction to assail them that they may be purified. .
MH 470.2-MH 471.1

- **God is sovereign and overrules events on earth for the ultimate accomplishment of His divine purposes.**
- **Although at times God alters His original plans based on our human choices, His ultimate plan for this planet will be fulfilled.**
- **There will be times when the people of God experience hardship, persecution, imprisonment, and death itself for the cause of Christ.**
- **But even in the most challenging of times with Satan's most vicious attacks, God sustains and preserves His church.**

Hebrews 11:35–38 (NKJV) “Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. (36) Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. (37) They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— (38) of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.”

- **What reality do these texts reveal about our battle with the forces of evil?**
- **How do these passages harmonize with the idea of God's protection in the previous question?**

- **Is there a contradiction in the idea of God's protection and God's allowing some to face painful suffering and even a martyr's death for the cause of Christ?**

The affliction that we face in this life cannot preempt the promise of eternal life. Our afflictions are light compared to the joys of eternity. Our focus should not be on deliverance in this world, but preparation for the world to come.

1. Don't measure life on the scales of humanity, but according to plan of divinity.
2. Realize that our sight is not as reliable of our God.
3. The infirmities of this life cannot compare to the perfection of the life to come.

2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (NKJV) “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. (17) For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, (18) while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

“In vain were Satan's efforts to destroy the church of Christ by violence. The great controversy in which the disciples of Jesus yielded up their lives did not cease when these faithful standard-bearers fell at their post. By defeat they conquered. God's workmen were slain, but His work went steadily forward.”

What should it mean to us that the Bible writers, who certainly knew pain and suffering, could nevertheless, over and over, write about the reality of God's love? How can we experience that same love for ourselves?

Romans 8:37–39 (NKJV) “(37) Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. (38) For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, (39) nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”