THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD

This issue overlaps with many other related doctrines: sovereignty, human freedom, problem of evil….

Missing (no) Providence	*Mas o Menos* (general) Providence	Meticulous Providence	Mechanical Providence
(at best) In response to / in reaction to what's going on	**In charge not in control**	**In charge and in control**	**Controlling and/or in control**
God is part of the… mess much like us only bigger, smaller, faster	**God is passive and permits**	**God is active and permits - using secondary causes**	**God causes all things – He doesn't permit**
Frustrated Participant	**Spectator**	**Father In Heaven**	**Distant Sovereign**
God's will is, at the most, God's wish/desire	**God can't interfere with our libertarian Free will**	**God works with, without, and above our will!**	**God forces our will – we have no real choices**

This issue is obviously complex (God, man, nature, life….) with dangers of ignoring what we don't like!

1. God is actively and intimately working all things after the counsel of His own will!

Romans 8:28 And we **know** that **all** things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Ephesians 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated **according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:**
Ephesians 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, **Ephesians 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:**

2. God stands in some providential relationship to all things:

- **Behind it! (Judges 14:4; Psalm 148:8, Rev. 17:17)**
- **Beneath it! (Deut. 33:27)**
- **Above it! (Psalm 115:3; 135:5,6)**
- **Before it! (Psalm 145:1-9)**

Judges 14:4 But his father and his mother knew not that it was of the LORD, that he sought an occasion against the Philistines: for at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.

Psalm 148:8 Fire, and hail; snow, and vapour; stormy wind fulfilling his word:

Revelation 17:16 And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. **Revelation 17:17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.**

Deuteronomy 33:27 The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.

Psalm 115:3 But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.

Psalm 135:5 For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. **Psalm 135:6 Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.**

Psalm 145:1 I will extol thee, my God, O king; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever. **Psalm 145:2** Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever. **Psalm 145:3** Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable. **Psalm 145:4** One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts. **Psalm 145:5** I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works. **Psalm 145:6** And men shall speak of the might of thy terrible acts: and I will declare thy greatness. **Psalm 145:7** They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness. **Psalm 145:8** The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. **Psalm 145:9 The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.**

Proverbs 16:1 The preparations of the heart in man, **and** the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.
Proverbs 16:4 The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.
Proverbs 16:9 A man's heart deviseth his way: **but** the LORD directeth his steps.
Proverbs 16:33 The lot is cast into the lap; **but** the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD.

Isaiah 14:27 For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, **and who shall disannul it?** and his hand is stretched out, **and who shall turn it back?**
Isaiah 43:13 Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?
Isaiah 45:7 I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.

Isaiah 46:9 Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, **Isaiah 46:10** Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: **Isaiah 46:11** Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.

Amos 3:6 Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? **shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it?**

Daniel 4:17 This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: **to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.**
Daniel 4:25 That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, **till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. Daniel 4:26** And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, **after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule.**
Daniel 4:34 And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, **and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: Daniel 4:35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?**