

Do You Feel Lucky?

"You've got to ask yourself one question. 'Do I feel lucky?'" – Dirty Harry

Do you believe in luck, chance, good fortune, fate? Or... do you believe in the providence of God?

What you choose to believe in will dictate how you see & respond to every circumstance in your life! Is God speaking through our circumstances?

To believe in luck, chance, fortune, fate is to deny the sovereign nature of God!
To believe in luck, chance, fortune, fate is to also deny the personal nature of God!

- Luck is powerless and dumb! God is all-powerful and He speaks...
- Chance cannot influence reality, it's nothing more than a mathematical possibility! God creates reality with the sound of His voice & what He declares to be will be!
- Good fortune is blind and accidental! God's providence is all-seeing, all knowing, and it brings about God's intentional purposes in this world!
- Fate is impersonal! God is personal and a loving Father!

What will you choose to believe in, and what is that belief based upon?

Don't let what you can't see, what you don't know, and what you haven't understood keep you from believing in God's loving hand of providence!

"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen!"

The best example of God's providence in Scripture is the life of Joseph!

Joseph's life story Luck – Chance – Fortune – Fate – Providence

- Joseph was the youngest son of Jacob (Israel)!
- As the youngest son, born to Jacob in his old age, Joseph was Jacob's favorite son and he had the robe to prove it! **Genesis 37:3**
- As a result, Joseph was hated by his brothers! **Genesis 37:4**
- Joseph had dreams of ruling over his brothers! **Genesis 37:5-11**
- Out of jealousy, Joseph's brothers conspired to kill him! **Genesis 37:18**

- Joseph's brother Reuben convinced the others not to kill him! **37:21-22**
- Joseph was thrown into a pit and then sold as a slave! **Gen. 37:23-28**
- The Midianites sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh! **37:36**
- Joseph found success and prosperity in Potiphar's house! **Gen. 39:1-6**
Was it due to luck? No... the Lord was with Joseph & caused all that he did to succeed.
- Joseph was falsely accused of adultery by Potiphar's wife! **39:6b-15**
Did God's providence run out? Was this outside of God's control?
- Potiphar throws Joseph into prison! **Gen. 39:19-20**
- Joseph finds success in prison! **Gen. 39:21-23**
Once again it says, *"The Lord was with Joseph & showed him steadfast love & gave him favor... & whatever he did, the Lord made it succeed!"*
- Joseph interprets the dreams of two prisoners! **Gen. 40:5-8**
- Joseph asks the one to remember him when he gets out so that he too can be released from prison, but the cupbearer forgets about him! **40:14-15,23**
- 2 years later, Pharaoh has a dream that he cannot understand & that prompts the memory of the cupbearer of Joseph! **Gen. 41:9-13**
- Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dream & is promoted! **Gen. 41:39-42**
- There was a famine in Canaan and Joseph's brothers came to Egypt looking for food! Guess who they had to bow down before to make their request?
- Joseph's relationship with his brothers is restored and God's people Israel are saved during the famine years. **Gen. 45:4-8**
- Joseph reveals the truth of God's providence to His brothers! **50:20**

Ralph Waldo Emerson – *"Shallow men believe in luck or in circumstance. Strong men believe in cause and effect."*

God is the great cause & His good purpose in our lives is the effect!

Do you feel lucky, or do you feel God's hand of providence upon your life?

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