

## God Is Not So Mysterious (Part 2)

(Understanding Miracles, Prayer, Providence, etc.)

### I. Introduction:

A. Very often, people describe God's providence with using Scriptures such as **Romans 8:28**.

1. Yet, they miss that the context is not promising physical well-being to Christians (**Romans 8:17** and **Romans 8:31-39**).
2. The fact is, the life of a Christian is not often going to be "good" in a physical sense (**Acts 14:19-23** and **I Peter 4:12-16**).

B. God does provide for us today (**James 1:17**).

1. Physically, through natural means (**Matthew 5:44-45**).
2. Spiritually, through Christ (**I Thessalonians 5:9**) and the revealed Scriptures (**Romans 1:16** and **II Timothy 3:15-17**).

### II. Body: While God's Providence Is Active Today, God's Providence Is Not As Advertised By False Teachers (**II Peter 2:17-22**).

A. False teachers take Scriptures out of context to teach that God will move things in the favor of their followers (i.e. **Jeremiah 29:11**).

1. Contextually, who and what is not us and now (**Jeremiah 29:1-23**).
2. The bigger picture is that, during those Old Testament times, God did lead His people differently than today (**Hebrews 1:1-2**).
3. Thus, especially with Psalms that are often taken from their Old Testament context (i.e. **Psalms 23:1-6**); these things don't apply today as those times were very different (i.e. **I Chronicles 17:7-15**).
4. What was physical then, is no more (**Hebrews 12:18-29**).

B. Context matters (**II Timothy 2:14-18**).

1. Consider **Acts 12:4-5** as it is often used for authority to pray for Christians to be freed from bad situations.
  - a. Now, put it into context (**Acts 12:1-19**).
  - b. The point (**Acts 12:17**), go and show (**Acts 5:12-16**).
2. Consider **Matthew 21:22**.

- a. Now, look at the context (**Matthew 21:18-22**).
- b. Can we just pray for whatever (**James 4:3** and **I John 5:14-15**)?
- c. Will those who teach we can, based on **Matthew 21:22**, now go and prove it publicly (**Acts 4:1-16**)?

C. Why did God make it so that men could ask for the miraculous and it be granted (**Mark 16:15-20**)?

1. Today, we can prove all things (**I Thessalonians 5:21**) through the written word.
2. Then, they had no confirmation lest it were from God above through supernatural means (**Hebrews 2:1-4**).
3. Remember, the New Testament doctrine of Christ was NEW (**Mark 1:27**) and had to be proven (**Acts 2:22**; cf. **John 3:2** and **John 5:36**).

III. Conclusion: Let's leave this sermon with a question that will lead to next week's lesson. How do these things we have learned apply to studying things such as Joseph being freed from prison, feeding his people, and how those do or not apply to us today (**Acts 7:9-17**)?

- A. Is God directing events in our lives today (**Psalms 31:3**)?
- B. Or, are things left to time and chance (**Ecclesiastes 9:11**)?