

### Divine Providence or Divine Chance?

read

*Esther 4:14*

think

“Hello, this is Luke Bobo, may I help you?” “Hi, my name is John. I am calling on behalf of my nephew, whose name is John too.” Uncle John went on to ask, “Is there someone there that could meet with my nephew because I fear he is going down the wrong path?” I responded to Uncle John, “I will be happy to meet with your nephew.” I

would later meet with nephew John, assure him of his faith, and encourage him to marry his girlfriend who he was living with outside of marriage. John, and his girlfriend, allowed me the honor to officiate their wedding. It was not an accident that I was in my office when this call came from uncle John. This was divine providence at work. God had clearly orchestrated these events.

God orchestrated the events of Queen Esther’s life too. God orchestrated the events that landed the Jews, an ethnic minority, in the Persia Empire. God orchestrated the events that led to Esther being chosen queen by King Ahasuerus. Mordecai, Esther’s uncle and surrogate father, believed in divine providence. In other words, he believed that God was (is) orchestrating human affairs (including yours). Following an edict to annihilate the Jews, Mordecai, pleads with his niece, “For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:14, ESV). In this passionate plea, Mordecai is not only expressing his unwavering belief that God will rescue his people but in the last question, Mordecai is expressing a belief in God’s providence. Mordecai is telling Esther, “Dear niece, recall our family devotions about divine providence because it is no accident that you have been chosen queen at this time to use your position for the Jews’ deliverance.” Wisely, and courageously, Esther listens to Mordecai and obeys him. Ultimately, God uses Esther’s bold action to save the Jews from genocide.

apply

- In your own words, define divine providence.
- Can you think of a time where you witnessed God’s providence in your life?
- What might be our response to our God who works providentially in our personal lives?

pray

Lord, you know all things and you know the beginning from the end of human history. Lord, you have sovereign rule over all people. Master, thank you that you don’t govern our lives by chance or happenstance. Rather, Lord, you are purposefully orchestrating the events and affairs in our life for your divine purposes, for our good, and for the good of others. May we relax, rest, and trust you. May this truth of your divine providence engender in us, great tranquility and a sense of purpose. We love you Lord. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

**by Luke Bobo**

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