**Esther 10:1-3 June 13, 2021**

**It Just so Happens**

God’s Sovereignty

* God is the **Chief Being** in the universe
* God is in **complete control** of all things
* He may choose to let certain events happen according to natural laws (Charles C. Ryrie)

God’s Will

* God’s expressed will
  + What God ordains, **will happen**
  + What God ordains, He causes all the events in the world to work such that His will occurs
* God’s **permissive will**
  + God “permits” or allows some things to happen that He does not specifically direct or cause
  + God NEVER would direct that we commit a sin
  + God does allow (permit) Satan and demons to enact their schemes in the world (think Job)

God’s Providence

* The providence of God is his purposeful sovereignty by which he will be completely successful in the achievement of his **ultimate goal** for the universe.
* God’s providence carries his plans into action, guides all things toward his ultimate goal, and leads to the final consummation.
  + John Piper in “Providence”
* “God sees to it that things will happen in a certain way” (Piper)
  + God is **purposefully guiding** all things to the end which He desires and has planned

It Just So Happens That God Controls and Purposes all Things

God’s Providence over the Jews Esther 10:1-3

* Death was decreed for Mordecai, Esther, and all the Jews
  + It was a dark time to be an Israelite in Persia
* Esther and Mordecai could not see God’s **providential hand** moving over Xerxes and Haman to turn the tables
* Mordecai is promoted to 2nd in charge of the Persian Empire
  + Mordecai then used his influence to ensure the “good of his people”
  + Mordecai used his influence to advance the whole Persian Empire

**What does this mean for me?**

* God’s providential work in the world demonstrates that **He controls EVERYTHING** that happens
* He is in control (His sovereignty) – none in the world, including Satan can thwart Him
* God is purposefully guiding the events of your life to lead to His **greatest glory**
* Therefore, in times of great joy or extreme evil, we can **trust that God** is guiding all of it to work out according to His good pleasure for all those who are in Christ

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