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MAN IN THE PLAN OF GOD'S POWERFUL PROVIDENCE

Someone has said that the world will never develop properly or educate itself sufficiently apart from the influence of great people living in the providence of God. Abraham Lincoln once visited a church with one of his aids. When they left the service his aid asked the president what he thought about the sermon. The president replied, "The pastor was passionate about what he believed and was very sincere." The aid then said to Mr. Lincoln, "So you thought it was a good message?" Mr. Lincoln said, "No, I thought it was a failure as a sermon." The aid, looking surprised, asked why he thought that. The president said, "I thought it was a failure because the preacher did not challenge us to do something great."

Men and women are never great in and of themselves. They are great only in relationship to the role they play in God's grand scheme of things. They are great only as they submit themselves to God to be an instrument in His hands to bring about His plan and purpose on this earth. There is a desperate need for people to exhibit this kind of greatness today. King David was one of these people, as were the apostle Paul, David Livingston, Martin Luther, Winston Churchill, Abraham Lincoln, Christopher Columbus, George Washington, Thomas Edison, George Washington Carver, Martin Luther King, Mother Teresa, Billy Graham, and William Wilberforce. All of these people knew that they were instruments in the hand of the God of all providence to bring about His plan and purpose in their life times on this earth.

The providence of God was obvious in the life of Moses from his birth to his death. Joseph is a wonderful example of God's providence working even when it was not so obvious until later on in his life. Samuel, the apostle Peter, and Esther were all predestined for greatness by God Himself to bring about His plan and purpose on the earth. The providential God always has a man or women that He can raise up to bring about His plan and purpose.

When the world became so corrupt and steeped in wickedness, God raised up a Noah. When the world needed an example of true forgiveness, He raised up Joseph. When light had gone out in the temple and in the hearts of the Israelites, He raised up the prophet Samuel. When God needed a king who would follow after His heart, He raised up David. When Israel needed a deliverer, God raised up Moses. When God needed someone brave enough to enter the throne room of the Persian King Ahasuerus without an invitation to intercede for His people, He raised up Esther. And when the world needed a Savior, "In the fullness of time God sent forth His Son" (Galatians 4:4). And they shall call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins.

God's plan cannot be hindered or altered by the actions and schemes of men. Satan cannot abort God's plan of redemption. God has no adversaries. Many think that Satan and God are slugging it out and finally one or the other will be declared the winner. Satan's arms are too short to box with God. And one day the Lord will speak a word and Satan will be vanquished forever. Neither the providence of God, the sovereignty of God, nor the omnipotence of God can be challenged by Satan or any other spiritual or man made power. God will accomplish what He pleases. Abraham and Sarah's age could not prevent the plan of God from becoming a reality. The betrayal of Jesus by Judas could not prevent God's plan of redemption from coming to pass. Yes, Satan and men will try to fight against the Creator and providential God but it will be to no avail. Satan the roaring lion is no match for the victorious Lion of Judah. Romans 4:21 tells us that what God has promised He is able to perform. His Word will not return to Him void but will accomplish whatever He pleases (Isaiah 55:11). The apostle Paul tells us that we can be confident of one thing: He who has begun a good work in us will complete it (Philippians 1:6).

Even though there may be 100 obstacles in our path God will take even those obstacles and work them together for our good and His glory (Romans 8:28). God's plan and purpose will not be aborted. He may be slow in bringing that purpose into view but He is never late. Proverbs 21:1 reminds us that the king's heart is in the Lord's hand, and like a river He turns it in whichever way He pleases. We are told in Psalm 115:3 that God is in heaven and He does whatever He pleases. In Psalm 135:6 we read that whatever the Lord pleases He does, in heaven, in earth, in the seas and in the deep places. God takes full responsibility for everything that He does and He does not have to give me an explanation for what He does. Paul adds in Ephesians 1:11 that this powerful providential God works all things according to the counsel of His will. I ask who can stand and oppose the good will of God: me, you, Satan? I don't think so. Many have tried and all have failed. Herod tried by killing the boy babies at the time of Jesus' birth, thinking he would rid the world of the Messiah,

but he failed. Pharaoh tried to abort God's providential will by killing the boy babies in an attempt to stop God's plan of delivering His people from 400 years of bondage. He failed as well.

God's providential purpose goes marching on, and woe unto the one who gets in His way and attempts to detour or abort or prevent His will and plan from being accomplished. His will, His ways and His words abide forever. God can take even the devil and make him his servant. He took Cyrus, the godless Persian King, and made him His shepherd to perform "all His pleasure" (Isaiah 44:28). The God who forms the light and creates darkness, who makes peace and creates calamity, "I the Lord do all these things" (Isaiah 45:5-7). When Moses was reluctant to be the deliverer of God's people, listen carefully to the words he heard from God Himself. "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing or the blind. Have not I the Lord done these things?" I don't understand all of that but I know that the God who saved me and delivered me from the power of darkness and sin is too wise to be mistaken and too good to be unkind. He can take the death of Lazarus and declare that his sickness is not unto death but it is for the glory of God (John 11). He can take the blind man in John 9 and declare that he was blind so that the works of God could be revealed in him. Our great, powerful, providential God can take everything Satan has to dish out and turn it around and work it together for the good of those who love Him and have been called for His purpose.

The God who never slumbers or sleeps will keep His people and not allow their foot to slip. He is our protector, our shade that keeps the sun from striking us down. In that same Psalm 121 we are told He preserves us from all evil and preserves our soul and preserves our going out and coming in. From this time forth and forever He preserves those who love Him. This is our powerful, providential God that withholds no good thing from those who walk uprightly before Him. What a mighty God we serve. Angels bow before Him. Heaven and earth adore him. What a mighty God we serve!

WHERE I'VE BEEN AND WHERE I'M GOING

2010

April 4-7	Revival Meeting at Victory Baptist Church in Clinton, Indiana
April 20-May 18	12th Central Europe Mission Project (Slovakia, Czech Republic and Romania)
May 23	Taught Sunday School at New Beginnings Baptist Church, Longview, Texas
May 26	American Railcar Bible Class in Longview, Texas
June 6-11	Revival Meeting at South Side Baptist Church in Ore City, Texas
June 16	American Railcar Bible Class in Longview, Texas
June 24-July 4	13th Central European Mission Project (Orphan Camp in Talsi, Latvia)
July 6	Allen and Sharron's 47th Wedding Anniversary
July 28	Preaching at New Beginnings Baptist Church in Longview, Texas
July 30-31	The Allen Buchanek Evangelistic Association Board Meeting in Longview, Texas
August 8-11	Revival Meeting at South Side Baptist Church in Gilmer, Texas
Sept. 16- Oct. 12	14th Central Europe Mission Project (Poland & Slovakia)
Oct. 31-Nov. 7	Revival Meeting at First Baptist Church in Tuscola, Texas
Nov. 21	One Day Revival Meeting at Little Flock Baptist Church in Longview, Texas
December 10-11	Allen Buchanek Evangelistic Association Board Meeting in Longview, Texas

TO THOSE WHO HELP ME GO

This first half of 2010 has been very busy so far. I have preached and taught God's Word over 70 times in five countries, in over 40 cities, in nine different denominations. I have ministered in churches, camps, cultural halls, prisons, retreats, youth conferences, Bible studies and revival meetings. New doors continue to open every time I travel to Central Europe. I was in Romania for the first time for six days and God gave us a wonderfully fruitful ministry there. They have invited me to return next year for 3-4 weeks. Serbia will probably be in our schedule next year, as well as The Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary. There is a possibility that Bulgaria will be in our schedule as well. By the time you receive this newsletter I will be ministering in Latvia at Orphan Camp with the Sheridan Family from our church New Beginnings. Bo Sheridan is one of my board members on the ABEA.

The work in Slovakia is still the crown jewel of our Central Europe Mission Projects. The Berea Center that will house our Bible school, conference center and camp is slowly being completed. We have set November 2011 as our completion date. And we are debt free. The Lord has already done mighty works there even in its uncompleted state. We have had conferences, camps and retreats there

where many lives have been taken from the Kingdom of Darkness and translated into the Kingdom of Light. I have no doubt that The Berea Center will be the birth place of hundreds and even thousands of youth and adults alike. There they can be trained in the principles of God's Word and sent out to be firebrands for Jesus. I have been privileged to meet and encourage God's saints in nine different countries now in Central Europe. I had to stop calling it Eastern Europe because many of the folks there told me, "Allen, we are not Eastern Europe, we are Central Europe." Eastern Europe is further north around Russia. So from now on my Projects will be called Central Europe Mission Projects (CEMP). Has kind of a nice sound to it, don't you think?

And what can I say about my faithful financial and prayer partners? It is because of the role you play that this ministry is possible. Each of you gives out of a heart of love and sacrifice that only the God of all grace sees and blesses. So many of you pray for me every single day, and I know when you are praying. In my weakness God's strength is made perfect. When I am weak then I am strong (2 Corinthians 12). Your financial support helps finance the Projects but your prayers sustain me and keep me strong to do what the Father has called me to do. Your prayers are what prepare the hearts of these dear precious folks to receive God's wonderful words of life. Children, young people and adults alike are being transformed by the power of God's Word. On behalf of every life that has been impacted by the Word and Spirit of God through this ministry that you are playing such a vital role in around the world, thank you from the bottom of my heart, dear fellow laborers. We make a pretty good team I think. Each of you remains in my prayers and in my heart. May the very best of God's blessings be on you and on those you love. Until next time be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Allen Buchanan

Bro. Allen – Acts 20:2

CD OF THE QUARTER:

"The Cup: Gethsemane to Calvary"

The \$10.00 paid for this CD will help me make another trip to another country with the wonderful words of life.

