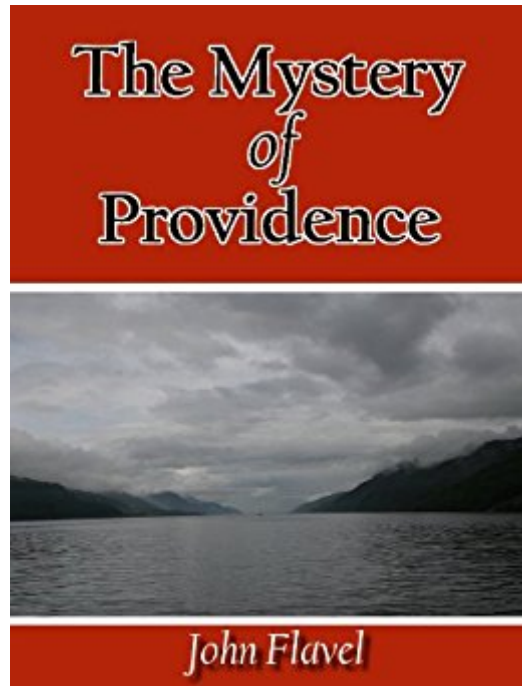




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The Mystery Of Providence



Synopsis

First published in 1678, this little work well illustrates and explains the purpose of God for his people. Do we believe that everything in the world and in our own lives down to the minutest details is ordered by the providence of God? Do we ever take time to observe and meditate on the workings of providence? If not, are we missing much? It should be a delight and pleasure to us to discern how God works all things in the world for His own Glory and His people's good. But it should be an even greater pleasure to observe the particular designs of providence in our own lives. O what a world of rarities, say John Flavel, are to be found in providence with what profound wisdom, infinite tenderness and incessant vigilance it has managed all that concerns us from first to last. It was to persuade Christians of the excellency of observing and meditating upon this that Flavel first published his *Mystery of Providence* in 1678. Since then the work has gone through many editions. Based on the words "God that performeth all things for me" (Ps.57v2) this work shows us how providence works for us in every stage and experience of our lives. The book is richly illustrated from the lives of believers and from the author's wide reading in church history. There are avenues of spiritual knowledge and experience opened to the Christian in this work, which he probably never knew existed. Considered by many to be THE classic work on Providence.

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Customer Reviews

I don't know when I last worked so hard in order to read a book, but I also don't remember when I've been so deeply affected and blessed by a book. Flavel's command of Scripture, and his ability to give practical biblical examples of so many of his points, is beyond compare. Because I was reading it on Kindle, I actually outlined some of the chapters so I could follow his lengthy list of main points. But doing so helped me see the big picture, as well as the practical applications. If you are willing to work at it, you will finish this book loving and knowing God more than when you started. Even if you only read the first and last chapters, it is worth it. But don't expect to read this book and come away unchanged. I'm hoping the effects this book have had on me never wear off.

Tim Challies blog site invited his readers (and has done previously) to read a classics Christian book together, reading 1 chapter per week. He would post a summary of and post their comments on his blog each Thursday, and each one in the group could read his comments, and also post their comments, or respond to the comments of others concerning the book. The book chosen, *The Mystery of Providence* by John Flavel was an excellent choice. I was introduced to this prolific writer, and dedicated Puritan through the reading of this book. We often overlook providence in our lives, but yet for the Christian it touches everything we do. Without the providence of God we who are children of God would not be justified by Christ, sanctified, and one day glorified. He is involved with every facet of our lives: family, temptation, tribulations, etc... I highly recommend this book, and if you are able to, read it with another person willing to discuss it together, or a small group. I thank God for Tim Challies and his ministry. You can also check out our ministry which trusts in the providence of God www.soulfishingministries.org Phil

I wish I had read this in high school or college but then again, God's providence was at work with the timing such that I could really appreciate this book. Have you been discouraged? You might not even know it but surely there are times when you feel like your prayers won't be answered. This is a book about meeting God and getting to know Him. They seem to be written as a series of sermons on this one topic. This is not complicated writing but it isn't modern. Compared to some contemporary writing on the same topic, this book is profound and hit me over and over with THE

WORD OF GOD: not just one or two per chapter but over and over and over again. Isn't that what we need? The refreshing fountain of life. It also encourages you to journal, as a testimony to yourself and to future generations of God's goodness. I thought of all the people I know who have suffered and yet have shared a wonderful testimony about "the peace that passes understanding." I'm certainly glad that they shared that testimony. Isn't it good to know that you have testimonies to share too if you but look and meditate? This was loaned to me by an older woman in the faith whom I greatly respect (a comfort to her when her daughter had cancer) and I promptly bought multiple copies. (She also loaned me Elisabeth Elliot's tape series on suffering, which is also good.) I think this should be required reading. What a help to the charge to "be transformed by the renewing of your minds." I cannot speak highly enough about this book. I plan to reread it every year or so to be reminded of the mighty hand of Providence: a great comfort in these last days.

Helped me understand events in my life and to trust Abba Father even when I don't understand. Also reminded me that it's not about me, but how can my suffering glorify God. He must increase and I must decrease.

John Flavel writes in the typical puritan fullness. This is a very thorough study of God's providence. He attempts to clarify the scriptural teaching and draw proper guidance and applications. This book won't be a fast simple read, but it is rich for those who are willing to mine for gold. I highly recommend this for any serious Christian's permanent book collection.

The wisdom of John Flavel is timeless. And he writes in such a simple and clear manner. But this is not a book to read fast. It is a book to read one paragraph at a time and meditate upon. Each sentence says volumes. The truth sets you free and once you see truth, you can't unsee it, as someone once said. This book is very comforting and assuring in one's faith. I love the Puritan writers, compared to some of the "fluff" of modern writers. It's the difference of eating "Cocoa Puffs" and eating steak. Why not go to the full meal and be fed. If you like A. W. Pink, you should know that this was 2nd. in his list of favorites. Flavel's other book "The Fountain of Life Opened Up" was his 1st. Loved it, Mary Holland

I've never understood what was meant by God's providence. This book does an excellent job at explaining, in detail, what is meant by God's providence in general. It also goes further to bring understanding to the mysteries of God's providence. It is an excellent read.

The puritan language that this gem is written in can definitely be dense at times. But stick with it, read it slowly taking time to digest everything and take copious notes and you'll be glad you read this book. Providence is probably something we don't talk about often enough in today's church and this was a good primer for a modern reader.

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