

## Lessons from the Fire

### 1. God's Might and Power displayed in nature:

- Every day in creation
- Natural disasters or acts of God

### 2. God's Sovereignty over and Providence in nature

- Lamentations 3:37-38
- No one speaks to cause something to come to pass unless the Lord has commanded in his sovereign decree that he or she should do so.
- Good and ill events are commanded by God to come to pass.

### God causes "ill" or "evil"? What does that mean?

- Word "ill" does not refer to moral evil
- God never causes anyone to sin
- "Ill" refers to catastrophes or tragedies

### Three key concepts within the overarching doctrine of providence:

1. **Preservation-** "God keeps all created things existing and maintaining the properties with which he created them."
2. **Concurrence-** "God cooperates with created things in every action, directing their distinctive properties to cause them to act as they do."

-Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology

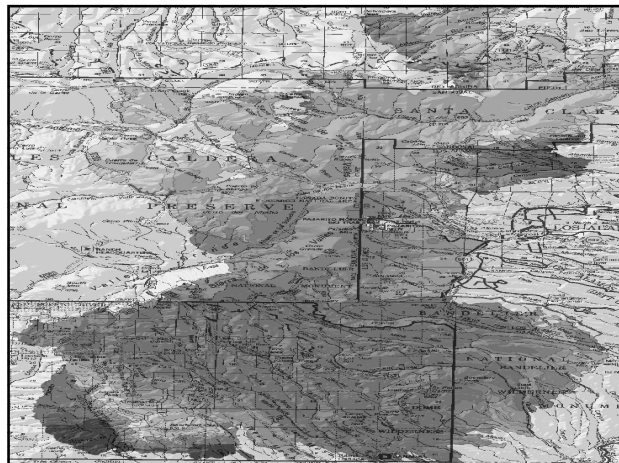
### Three key concepts within the overarching doctrine of providence:

3. **Government-** "God has a purpose in all that He does in the world and he providentially governs or directs all things in order that they accomplish his purposes."

-Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology

### 3. God's Mercy

- Psalm 86:15 "But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth."



### 4. People Matter to God and to Society

- Society, innately, is theologically correct regarding the worth and value of every human life.

### 5. The church community matters

- 1 Corinthians 1:1-10
- Jesus died for the church, that is the church universal
- God's calling is for us to be vitally connected to a local church

### 6. God sometimes scatters His church

- Not only does Jesus gather the church together but he also scatters the church.
- Acts 8:1, "And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria..."

### 7. Strip us of a love for this world.

- Our eternal reward is so much greater than any earthly home and so let us hold loosely to comfortable living and let us fix our eyes on the heavenly prize.
