

# Basics of Christianity

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## God Rules All – God Created the World

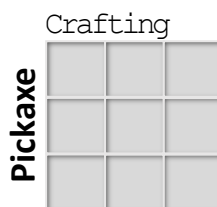
### Memorize

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28, NIV)



### Study

1. How do you craft a **chest** and **pickaxe** in Minecraft? Notice that you can't make these things out of nothing. You need things to make other things.



2. Fill in the blanks for Hebrews 11:3 - “By faith we understand that the universe was \_\_\_\_\_ at God’s \_\_\_\_\_, so that what is seen was \_\_\_\_\_ made out of what was \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - a) What did God need to make the world? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) This verse says that we are to understand this truth how? (first two words of the verse) \_\_\_\_\_
3. According to John 1:3, who were all things made through? \_\_\_\_\_
4. According to Genesis 1:2, who was hovering over the waters at Creation?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. So we know that the world was made by God the Father, the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_.

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## God Rules All – Creation Needs God

### Memorize

And \_\_\_\_\_ know \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ things \_\_\_\_\_ works \_\_\_\_\_ the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ him, \_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_  
called \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ purpose." ( \_\_\_\_\_ 8: \_\_\_\_\_,  
NIV)



### Study

Look up the term *providence* in the Bible dictionary. What is *providence*?

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How does each of the following verses describe ways that Creation needs its Creator?

1. Job 12:10 -

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2. Acts 17:25 -

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3. Acts 17:28a -

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4. Hebrews 1:3a -

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Essentially, providence means that God is **continuously active** in His Creation,  
But He is also **distinct** from it.

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## God Rules All – God Controls Everything

### Memorize

\_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ all \_\_\_\_\_ God \_\_\_\_\_ for  
\_\_\_\_\_ good \_\_\_\_\_ those \_\_\_\_\_ love \_\_\_\_\_, who \_\_\_\_\_ been  
\_\_\_\_\_ according \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_." (Romans \_\_:28, NIV)



### Study

We know from the idea of *providence* that God is continuously **active in** and **distinct from** His Creation. Providence also tells us that nothing happens in Creation that He doesn't allow.

What do Job 37:6-13 and Psalms 104:14 say about God's providence when it comes to the **inanimate** parts of His creation?

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What does Matthew 10:29 say about how we see God's providence in relation to **animals**?

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What does Proverbs 16:33 say about God's providence when it comes to events that seem **random**?

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What does Job 12:23 say about God's providence in **nations**?

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Tomorrow we will look at God's providence in your life!

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## God Rules All – God Is Involved in Your Life

### Memorize

\_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ all \_\_\_\_\_ God \_\_\_\_\_ for  
\_\_\_\_\_ good \_\_\_\_\_ those \_\_\_\_\_ love \_\_\_\_\_, who \_\_\_\_\_ been  
\_\_\_\_\_ according \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_." (Romans \_\_\_\_:28, NIV)



### Study

We know from the idea of *providence* that God is continuously **active in** His Creation – including in **your life!**

Read Matthew 6:11, which is part of a prayer. Does God provide your **food**, even if you work for it? Even if you grow it yourself? Explain your answer.

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Read Psalms 139:16 and Job 14:5. What do they say about God's providence in the **length of your life**?

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Read Proverbs 20:24. What does it say about the **plans** that you make?

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Read Psalms 75:6-7. What does it say about whether you **succeed or fail** in your plans?

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Read 1 Corinthians 4:7. What does it say about God's providence in your **talents and abilities**?

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Read the familiar verse Psalms 18:34. It shows that David understood God's providence in His plan for David's life (as a military leader) and his abilities (even though he probably trained for hours).

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## God Rules All – You Have a Responsibility in the World

### Memorize

And \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ things \_\_\_\_\_ for  
\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_, who \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ called \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.”

(Romans \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_, NIV)



### Study

We know from the idea of *providence* that God is continuously active in His Creation – including in your life! He is involved in the length of your life, the plans that you make, your successes and failures, and your talents and abilities. **But that does not mean that you are not responsible for your actions and the choices that you make.**

Read Genesis 45:4-8. In this passage, we see evidence of God’s providence in both Joseph’s life individually and the lives of all who were helped by Joseph’s position in Egypt. What does this passage say about God’s plan for Joseph’s life?

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How did God plan to help the people in the area through Joseph?

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But does this mean that Joseph’s brothers didn’t do anything wrong and were not responsible for their actions when they sold him? Read Genesis 50:20. How does this verse describe their actions?

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This is just one example in the Bible of how God’s character (His wisdom, power, and goodness) can make something good come out of bad choices (as your memory verse describes). God doesn’t cause us to do bad things, but He sometimes allows us to do bad things and then makes something good out of it. **God rules all, but you are responsible for your own actions.**

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God Rules All – We will experience pain & suffering.

## Memorize

\_\_\_\_\_ know \_\_\_\_\_ all \_\_\_\_\_ works  
\_\_\_\_\_ good \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_, who  
\_\_\_\_\_ called \_\_\_\_\_ his  
\_\_\_\_\_." ( \_\_\_\_\_ 8:28, NIV)



## Study

God created an amazing world, and yet it's a world with pain and suffering. If He is all-powerful, all-good, and all-knowing, **why does God allow pain and suffering?**

Before answering that question, but let's think about where pain and suffering come from. Below are some of the major reasons for pain and suffering in our lives. How do they cause pain and suffering?

❖ Natural disasters (like floods, rockslides, and tornadoes)

\_\_\_\_\_

❖ Health problems (like cancer, COVID-19, and diabetes)

\_\_\_\_\_

❖ The actions of others (like ugly words, inconsiderate behavior, and criminal behavior)

\_\_\_\_\_

❖ Disobedience to God (like breaking a commandment)

\_\_\_\_\_

The book of Job shows how one man experienced all of these types of suffering. Read Job 1:13-19. What natural disasters and broken commandments caused Job's suffering?

\_\_\_\_\_

Read Job 2:7. How did Job suffer from poor health?

\_\_\_\_\_

Read Job 2:9. How did Job suffer from the actions of his wife? (But don't judge her too harshly...she was suffering, too!)

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Tomorrow we'll look at why God allows pain and suffering like Job experienced.

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## God Rules All – Why is there pain & suffering?

Write Your Memory Verse

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### Study

In the last lesson, we looked at some reasons for pain and suffering in the world. Remember that **Earth is not heaven**, so we will experience physical pain and death. And **God allows us to choose and be responsible for our behavior**, so being in families and communities means that the behavior that other people choose will sometimes hurt us.

But **why does God allow all of that?** He is all-powerful, so why doesn't He change how things work?

**Short answer:** God cares more about our character than our temporary happiness. Read James 1:2-4.

What explanation do these verses give for some of our pain and suffering? (Read them in a couple of different translations if you're having trouble understanding what they're saying.)

**Longer answer:** God often plans suffering so that He can create something good out of it. Read the following verses and match to a way that God uses pain and suffering.

Isaiah 10:5-19

So we can help someone else

Hebrews 12:10

To remind us that we need God

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

As a tool for judgment

Matthew 5:10-12

To give us a blessing

2 Corinthians 12:8-10

To call disobedient children to Himself

**Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.** Our Creator God can make something out of nothing and good out of bad.

We can and should ask God to take away our suffering, but at the same time we should ask Him to help us trust Him enough to accept what we're going through in the moment.