

Proverb of the Week

Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand. - Proverbs 19:21 (ESV)

The plans of men are as varied as they are numerous. They range from those of the men just before the flood in the days of Noah, whose every imagination of the thoughts of their hearts were only evil continually (Genesis 5:5), to the followers of Jesus who set out to go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation (Mark 16:15). But an even more striking example of how the counsel of God will prevail in ways we might not expect is found in the testimony of the Old Testament prophets. For example, in order to punish Judah for her idolatry, God allowed Babylon to fulfill its plan to conquer Judah, and even calls its king his servant in that process (Jeremiah 25:8-9). However, because Babylon's plan had nothing to do with honoring God, they later received a similar judgment upon themselves because their purpose in conquering Jerusalem had been evil (Jeremiah 50:17-18). Those who are trusting in the Lord and his word have reason to take great comfort in the sovereignty of God as revealed in this proverb.