



(8) The Sovereignty of God

Trusting God's will to be supremely completed (1 Tim 6:15-16)

Is it so bad that God is in control? People, including many believers, have such a hard time accepting God's sovereign control. Perhaps, we like to think our choices and decisions are better. We must learn from Jesus How He mastered the challenges before Him by relying on and even delighting in the Father's sovereign will.

1) The Sovereignty of God

- Insists that God's purpose and will is perfectly and completely accomplished in time and eternity and that no power or other being can thwart His purposes.
- As we develop our trust in God's overall control of our life affairs, these truths associated with God's sovereignty buttress our hope, strength, endurance, and motivation to faithfully carry out our small part of His will to please Him (Eph 2:10).

➡ What aspects of God's sovereignty do we find in the account where Elisha prophesied abundant food the next day despite the severe famine that they faced during the siege (2 Kings 7:12, -3-5, 18-20)?

2) The Biblical Teaching of Sovereignty

"Which **He** will bring about at the proper time-**He** who is the blessed and **only Sovereign**, the **King of kings** and **Lord of lords**,¹⁶ **who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light**, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and **eternal dominion**! Amen" (1 Tim 6:15-16).

- **He** probably refers to God the Father.
- **Only Sovereign** (root: dynamis) emphasizes His complete power.
- **King of kings** describes God's authoritative position –Root: to act as king, to reign (Greek and Hebrew).
- **Lord of lords** (Greek: *kurios*) emphasizes the duty of full obedience.
- **Who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light** declares His power and holiness beyond time into eternity.
- **Be honor and eternal dominion** demands the respect God deserves as the supreme controller over His kingdom.

3) Mankind's Two Problems with God's Sovereignty

• Problem #1 Man innately hates the Sovereignty of God

Man deeply resists God's sovereignty and prefers his love affair with his own choices and lusts.

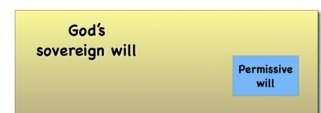
• Problem #2 Man can't comprehend the Sovereignty of God

God's glorious and comprehensive rule remains so far beyond our puny minds that we cannot easily grasp it, resulting in gross misrepresentations of Him, only further distancing the truth from our hearts and minds.

• God's Sovereign & Permissive Will

A common explanation attempting to answer many theological questions.

- God accomplishes all His sovereign (decretive) will (Jud 9:23).
- He allows some things for a time to function in a less than ideal way (permissive will) (Ac 2:23).
- In the end, all that happens is used to fully carry out God's purposes.



• Prophecy & Sovereignty of God

- God at times reveals ahead of time what will happen.

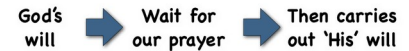


- God therefore knows what will happen.
- God in fact controls what will happen.

“Thus says the LORD, ‘Tomorrow about this time a measure of fine flour will be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria... It happened just as the man of God had said’” (2 Kings 7:1,18-20).

- Power over wills and affection. “The LORD said to Moses, ‘When you go back to Egypt see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders which I have put in your power; but I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go’” (Ex 4:21).

• Prayer & the Sovereignty of God



- God controls all things: “Declaring the end from the beginning And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, ‘My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure’” (Isa 46:10).
- God wants us to pray: “..You have asked for nothing in My name; ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be made full” (John 16:24).
- He waits for us to pray for His will then He will act. “You do not have because you do not ask” (James 4:2).

• Evil & Sovereignty of God

- God is light. “God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5)
- God is all powerful, “The LORD has established His throne in the heavens; and His sovereignty rules over all” (Ps 103:19).
- He allows evil to exist under His rule, “Kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men” (2 Pet 3:7).
- God temporarily allows evil to exist to display His grace and love. “For this very purpose I raised you up, to demonstrate my power in you, and that My Name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth” (Rom 9:17).

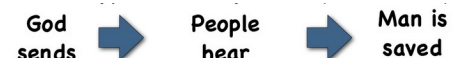
• Salvation & the Sovereignty of God



- God saves sinners who care not for God and righteousness: “None seeks for God” (Rom 3:11).
- God chooses those to be saved: “He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world” (Eph 1:4)
- Man is spiritually dead: “mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God” (Rom 8:7).
- God regenerates or causes a new life: “born of the Spirit” (John 3:8)
- Man is called to repent: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Mat 4:17).
- Man can actively place his faith in Christ: “many more believed because of His word” (John 4:41).

• Missions & the Sovereignty of God

- God wants the gospel preached to all, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Mat 28:19).
- God predestines those to be saved, “Having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will” (Eph 1:11).
- Man is called to repent and believe, “Whoever will call upon the Name of the Lord will be saved” (Rom 10:13).
- God’s people are to actively promote His saving Word, “How then will they call...? How will they believe? How will they hear...? How will they preach unless they are sent?” (Rom 10:14-15)



• God’s Rule through His People

- “Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One” (Daniel 7:27).
- “To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood, and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father; to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen” (Rev 1:5-6).
- “And raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus” (Eph 2:6-7).

4) The Holes of Life – Experience the power of the sovereignty of God in your lives!

- “Thus says the LORD, ‘Make this valley full of trenches. For thus says the LORD, ‘You shall not see wind nor shall you see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, so that you shall drink, both you and your cattle and your beasts’” (2 Kings 3:16-17).

- “Though the fig tree should not blossom And there be no fruit on the vines, Though the yield of the olive should fail And the fields produce no food, Though the flock should be cut off from the fold And there be no cattle in the stalls, Yet I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation. The Lord GOD is my strength, And He has made my feet like hinds’ feet, And makes me walk on my high places” (Hab 3:17-19).

- **An Assignment**

- Read the Psalms and Proverbs and note what is said about the sovereignty of God.
- Discuss one temporary or long term unchangeable issue that you struggle with. Can you accept God’s hand in it? Why is it so difficult? Seek Him until you can praise Him for it like Habakkuk.

“To fancy an infinite power without a supreme dominion, is to fancy a mighty senseless statue, fit to be beheld, but not fit to be obeyed; as not being able or having no right to give out orders, or not caring for the exercise of it.... And if we suppose him with a perfection of justice and righteousness...we must suppose him to have an entire dominion, without which he could never be able to manifest his justice.”¹⁰