

The Sovereignty of God

Bible Study

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“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”
Revelation 1:8 (NAS)

Our Great God exercises sovereign control over every person, object, and event, and not one molecule in the universe is outside that dominion.

If you look up the word “sovereign” in the dictionary, you would find words and phrases like “superior,” “greatest,” “supreme in power and authority,” “ruler,” and “independent of all others.”

All of these definitions are correct in the defining of the word “sovereign.” But I like to explain the sovereignty of God in these words, “God is in control.”

There is absolutely nothing that happens in the universe that is outside of God’s influence and authority. As King of kings and Lord of lords, He has no limitations, no constraints, no restraints, and no restrictions.

The problem that we have as human beings is that we are trying to figure out and understand Our God Who is Holy, and we are helpless without Him; we are trying to figure out His Sovereignty, when we are sinful; we are trying to figure out His Righteousness, when we are repugnant.

Can I get a witness?

Then we have these small brains of ours trying to figure out a sovereign, omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient God, Who has already declared that He does not see things from our perspective.

Isaiah 55:8-9 – “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. 9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. (NKJV)

There is no human being who can fully understand the thoughts of God; no one can understand the depths of God's wisdom.

Roman 11:33-36 – “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! 34 “For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?” 35 “Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?” 36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.” (NKJV)

When Paul realized Who God is and what His plans were, he shouted out in praise of the wisdom of God, the glory of God, the greatness of God, and the grandeur of God.

2 – The Sovereignty of God

Our Great God's purposes and decrees are beyond human understanding but thank God that He made it possible for us to have a relationship with Him through His Son.

Somebody hold my mule while I shout right here!!!

God is above all things and before all things. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. He is immortal, and he is present everywhere so that everyone can know Him.

Revelation 21:6 – “And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirst.”

Heaven belongs to those who have accepted Christ as Savior because they realized their need for a Savior and that Savior is Jesus.

“It is done” is in reference to Revelation 16:17 that proclaims the completion of God's wrath being poured out on Babylon. This is verse (Revelation 21:6), the main point is the completion of the new creation by Him Who is the Alpha and the Omega. The water of life is the lasting spiritual water that Jesus spoke about in the Scriptures (John 4:13-14; 7:37-38).

God created all things and holds all things together, both in heaven and on earth, both visible and invisible.

Colossians 1:16-17 – “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether throne or dominions or principalities or power. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.” (NKJV)

I know that we do not talk a lot or you may not hear sermons or discussions about demons or spirit beings but they do exist and can exert great influences in the visible world as well as the

invisible. Even these, however, were created by Jesus Christ! Many have rebelled against Him, both men and angels, always justifying themselves by maintaining they are the products of some cosmic evolutionary process instead of creation by the eternal, transcendent God. The pagan world, whether of the ancient Greeks or the modern New Agers, has always believed in angels, demons or spirit beings of various types and powers.

We cannot comprehend all this now, but even the evil that God has allowed will somehow eventually redound to His glory.

Notice something in Colossians 1:16-20, that the words “all things” and “by Him” or “in Him,” are repeated. By Him all things were created in the past, by Him all things consist in the present, by Him all things are to be reconciled in the future. Therefore, in Him all fullness dwells.

3 – The Sovereignty of God

The things created by Christ are now being sustained, or conserved, or held together, by Him. He is “upholding all things by the word of His power.”

Hebrews 1:3-4 – “who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.” (NKJV)

Heir of all things – Hebrews 1:2

This begins a glorious section describing Jesus, first as the heir of all things. This is the idea that Jesus is preeminent (having the highest rank, first, foremost, supreme, eminent). It is connected to Jesus’ standing as firstborn over all creation.

He made the worlds –

The ancient Greek word translated worlds is aion, from which we get our English word “eons.” It means that Jesus made more than the material world, He also made the very ages – history itself is the creation of the Son of God.

Jesus is the brightness of the Father’s glory, in this sense, Jesus is the “beam” of God’s glory. We have never seen God the Father, but we see Him through the “rays” of the Son of God. Jesus exactly represents God to us.

In His earthly ministry Jesus was constantly demonstrating the power of His word. He could heal, forgive, cast out demons, calm nature’s fury, all at the expression of His word. His word is so powerful that it can uphold all things.

We know from the Scriptures, that Jesus, the Son of God, is a person of great power and wisdom. We also know from the Scriptures that Jesus is also a person of great love because He purged the guilt and shame of our sins from us. Jesus did this Himself, showing that no one else could do this for us and we could not do this for ourselves.

God can do all things and accomplish all things. Nothing is too difficult for Him, and He orchestrates and determines everything that is going to happen in your life, in my life, in America, and throughout the world. Whatever He wants to do in the universe, He does, for nothing is impossible with Him.

Jeremiah 32:17 – “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You.”

This verse really does not need a lot of explanation because it really explains itself. Since He “made the heavens and the earth,” He can handle any and everything else by His “great and outstretched arm,” there “is nothing too hard for” Him!!!

4 – The Sovereignty of God

God is in control of all things and rules over all things. He has power and authority over nature, earthly kings, angels, and demons. Even Satan himself has to ask God’s permission before he can act.

Psalms 103:19 – “The LORD has established His throne in heaven, And His kingdom rules over all.”

In this verse David declares the idea of God’s sovereignty. He has fixed His throne in the heavens and His rule extends to everyone and everything.

Lucifer, the Devil, tried and failed to topple the Lord from His throne (Isaiah 14:12-15). Throughout history evil men have followed Lucifer’s example, but they too, have learned the hard way, that the Lord is sovereign and invincible. His throne is firmly fixed!

At the end of human history multitudes of rebellious human beings will follow the Devil in a last-ditch effort to overthrow God’s rule, but they will not succeed. God will rain fire upon them and consume them, and He will throw the Devil into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:7-10).

Unbelievers may be unwilling to acknowledge God, either in submission or by denying His existence. However, James tells us “even the demons believe – and shudder” (James 2:19). God’s eternal rule over all should cause His enemies to shudder, but it should bring comfort to believers. He has the will and the power to orchestrate even our trials to accomplish His good work in our lives (Romans 8:28).

God is in control of all things and rules over all things – that is what being sovereign means. It means being the ultimate source of all power, authority, and everything that exists. Only God can make those claims; therefore, it is God’s sovereignty that makes Him superior to all other gods and makes Him, and Him alone, worthy of praise and worship.

So, how does the Sovereignty of God influence my life daily?

Glad you asked –

The Sovereignty of God calls for our service and sacrifice -

Romans 12:1-2 – “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

(NKJV)

Jesus served and sacrificed for us – we should be willing to do the same for Him. He is not asking us to do something He is not willing to do. Jesus gave His life as the ultimate sacrifice.

5 – The Sovereignty of God

The Sovereignty of God calls for us to submit –

Just as the subjects of the king would bow down before him for fear of offending the king who had the authority to take their liberty, livelihood, and yes, even their lives, the sovereignty of God compels us to bow before Him. But unlike corrupt earthly kings who abuse their authority to terrorize their subjects, God rules in love. He loves you and me and wants the very best for us.

Romans 8:28 – “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

When you have been “walking” with The Lord for a while there are just some things that you know because you have seen Him work before, and that is why we can say, we know, because of past experiences with The Lord.

Now, you all know, by now, what the word “all” means right? Just in case you may have forgotten, let us define it again. All means all and that’s all it means. All things are orchestrated by divine intervention from God, yes, even suffering, temptation, and sin – all to accomplish the plan of God that He has for our lives.

Romans 8:28 is an amazing promise not only because it demonstrates that an all-powerful God cares about you and me, but because it cannot be fulfilled unless the One Who gives it is

all-knowing, all-wise, all-powerful, and all-loving. The promise itself is a testimony to God's sovereignty.

The sovereignty of God calls for us to submit because He has it all in control.

Because God has it all in control, His sovereignty provides security –

Psalm 27:1-5 – “The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid? 2 When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, my enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell. 3 Though an army may encamp me, my heart shall not fear; though war may rise against me, in this I will be confident. 4 One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek, that I may dwell in the house of the LORD, all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple. 5 For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.”

Since The LORD is, you and I as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ have nothing to fear. Since The LORD is our strength, you and I as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ have nothing to fear from the wicked, enemies and foes, an army that may encamp against us, or war that may rise against us.

Our confidence is not in us, it is in The LORD!!! He is always in control!

6 – The Sovereignty of God

There are times when we forget that this world is not our permanent dwelling place. We are in this world but we are not of this world (John 15:19). Our internal, permanent, dwelling place is in heaven.

John 14:2-3 – “In My Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

You and I have failed Our Lord in so many ways, but Jesus will keep His promise to us to return for us and take us to be with Him in heaven forever.

Yes, there are issues we must deal with, but we must always bear this in mind, God is always in control.

Remember, we have God's Presence, fulfilling God's purpose, in His power, all with His protection!!!

Somebody hold my mule while I shout right here!!!

God is always in control!

Even when those who are the dearest and nearest to us do not understand or may even abandon us, Our Lord always understands us and He will never leave us.

God is always in control!

When we say that God is sovereign, we are declaring that God is God. "All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, "What have you done?" (Daniel 4:35 NKJV)

When we say that God is sovereign, we are declaring that He is the Almighty, the Possessor of all power in heaven and earth, so that none can defeat His counsels, block His purpose, or resist His will.

Psalm 115:3 – "But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases."

When we say that God is sovereign, we are declaring that He is "the Governor among the nations" (Psalm 22:28), setting up kingdoms, overthrowing empires, and determining the course of dynasties as best please Him.

When we say that God is sovereign, we are declaring that He is the "Only Potentate, the Kings of kings, and Lord of lords" (I Timothy 6:15).

Such is Our God, Who is always in control!

7 – The Sovereignty of God

The incarnation of God's Son was one of the greatest events in the history of the universe, and yet its actual occurrence was not made known to all mankind; (the sovereignty of God, doing whatever He chooses to do, with whomever He chooses); instead, it was specially revealed to the Bethlehem shepherds and the wise men of the East. And this was prophetic and indicative of the entire course of this dispensation, for even today, Christ is not made known to all.

It would have been an easy matter for God to have sent a company of angels to every nation and announced the birth of His Son, but He did not (the sovereignty of God).

God could have instantly and readily attracted the attention of all mankind to the "star," but He did not. Why? Because He is sovereign and dispenses His favors as He pleases and to whom He pleases.

Notice particularly, the two classes to whom the birth of the Savior was made known, namely, the most unlikely classes – illiterate shepherds and heathens from a far country. No angel stood before the Sanhedrin and announced the birth of Israel's Messiah! No "star" appeared unto the scribes and religious leaders as they, in their pride and self-righteousness, searched the

Scriptures! They searched diligently to find out where He would be born, and yet it was not made known to them when He had actually come.

What a display of Divine Sovereignty – the illiterate shepherds singled out for peculiar honor, and the learned and eminent religious leaders passed by!

And why was the birth of the Savior revealed to these foreigners, and not to those in whose midst He was born? The sovereignty of God – doing whatever He chooses to do, with whomever He chooses to use.

We see in this, a wonderful foreshadowing of God's dealing with the human race throughout the entire Christian dispensation – sovereign in the exercise of His grace, bestowing His favors on whomever He pleases, often on the most unlikely and unworthy!

It has been pointed out to us that God's sovereignty was demonstrated in His choice of the place where His Son would be born. Jesus was not born in places of more prominence, such as Greece or Italy, but to the insignificant land of Palestine! Not in Jerusalem – the royal city but in Bethlehem, of which the prophet Micah referred to as "little among the thousands of Judah," not to mention the town in which Jesus grew up in, Nazareth, which was an insignificant and obscure village.

We commenced our discussion with Revelation 1:8 and we will conclude with the same verse – "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Yes, Our Great God is sovereign, and He has the power, wisdom, and authority to do anything He chooses within His creation, and He chooses whomever He desires to use, whether saved or unsaved, He is always in control!