

God Is Sovereign **Ephesians 1:3-14**

Main Point:

Recognize and respond to the sovereignty of God in all things

1. God's sovereignty

2. God's sovereignty in the gospel

3. God's sovereignty in the Christian life

A.W. Pink "The sovereignty of God may be defined as the exercise of his supremacy ..."

Steven Lawson "The sovereignty of God means, quite simply, that God is God, not merely in name, but in the full reality of His kingship. That is, God always does as He pleases, when He pleases, where He pleases, with whom He pleases."

WSC 7 Q. What are the decrees of God? **A.** The decrees of God are, his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for his own glory, he hath fore-ordained whatsoever comes to pass.

Psalms 33:6-7 6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. 7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deep in storehouses. (NKJV)

Matthew 8:31 31 So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine." (NKJV)

J.C. Ryle "Mighty as ... [the devil] is, there is One mightier still. Keenly as his will is set on doing harm in the world, he can only work by permission."

Psalms 33:10-11 10 The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect. 11 The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations. (NKJV)

Ephesians 2:10 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (NKJV)

Psalms 139:16 16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them. (NKJV)

Steven Lawson "He reigns in times of prosperity and disaster, in seasons of plenty and in famine, in life and in death. There are no boundaries on His jurisdictions."

Mark Jones "God governs all things toward a goal, namely, his glory."

James Anderson "A world with no fall and no salvation is altogether *less* God-glorifying than a world with a tragic fall but also a wondrous salvation."

Acts 2:23 23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; (NKJV)

Romans 9:15-16 15 For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion." 16 So then *it is* not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. (NKJV)

C.H. Spurgeon "Men will allow God to be everywhere except on His throne."

Isaiah 45:9 9 "Woe to him who strives with his Maker! *Let* the potsherd *strive* with the potsherd of the earth! Shall the clay say to him who forms it, "What are you making?" Or shall your handiwork say, 'He has no hands'?" (NKJV)

Mark Jones "He cannot rule in any other way than what is consistent with his being. He necessarily governs justly and wisely as the sovereign Lord who exercises his rule in the most beautiful manner."

Romans 8:28 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. (NKJV)

Steven Lawson "The sovereignty of God is like a soft pillow upon which the believer lays his head at night. There is no attribute more comforting to God's children than the sovereignty of their Father."

Mark Jones "How the sovereign purpose of God and the heinous actions of men in crucifying Christ work together, we cannot fully understand. This much we do know: the Bible reveals both concepts ..."