

HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD?

WEEK 15 – SOVEREIGNTY

Book recommendation: RC Sproul *The Invisible Hand of God*

** Communicable – We share with God	**Incommunicable – Unique to God
1. Love	10. Omniscience
2. Jealousy	11. Incomprehensibility
3. Graciousness	12. Glory
4. Just	13. Majesty
5. Wrath	14. Sovereignty
6. Merciful	
7. Goodness	
8. Faithfulness	
9. Wisdom	

Introduction

JC Ryle:

We learn, for another thing, how bitterly human nature dislikes the doctrine of the sovereignty of God...Of all the doctrines of the Bible none is so offensive to human nature as the doctrine of God's sovereignty.

What Does This Attribute Mean?

- Sovereign = *supreme in power, possessing supreme dominion*
 - Also mentions being effectual & potent
- Sovereignty = *supreme power or dominion*
 - Supreme = highest in power or authority

Biblical Definition:

Psa. 115:1 Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness! **2** Why should the nations say, “Where is their God?” **3** Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases. **4** Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. **5** They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see.

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Psa. 135:4 For the LORD has chosen Jacob for himself, Israel as his own possession. **5** For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. **6** Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps. **7** He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth, who makes lightnings for the rain and brings forth the wind from his storehouses.

AW Tozer says:

And were God lacking on infinitesimal modicum of power, that lack would end His reign and undo His kingdom; that one stray atom of power would belong to someone else and God could be a limited ruler and hence not sovereign. (A.W. Tozer, knowledge of the holy, p108)

Is. 46:8 “Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, 9 remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’ 11 calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.

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JC Ryle

Of all the doctrines of the Bible none is so offensive to human nature as the doctrine of God's sovereignty. To be told that God is great, and just, and holy, and pure, man can bear. But to be told that "He has mercy on whom He will have mercy"--that He "gives no account of His matters," that it is "not of him that wills, nor of him that runs, but of God that shows mercy"--these are truths that natural man cannot stand. They often call forth all his enmity against God, and fill him with wrath. Nothing, in short, will make him submit to them but the humbling teaching of the Holy Spirit. (J. C. Ryle. Expository Thoughts on the Gospels, St. Luke, P122)

Does Scripture Teach That God Exhibits This Attribute?

Gen. 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. **16** And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, **17** but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Jerry Bridges:

Clearly the issue of God's authority over His creatures is one of the most basic principles of Scripture. It underlies everything else. We know that the Bible, overall, is the revelation of God's plan of redemption of sinners through Jesus Christ. But that plan of redemption is basically the re-establishment of His authority over rebellious human beings whom He calls out of darkness into the kingdom of His Son (Acts 26:18, Col 1:13). The whole purpose of Jesus' death was to "redeem us from all wickedness [that is, from rebellion against His authority], and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good [to live under his authority]." (Titus 2:14) (Jerry Bridges, The Joy of Fearing God, p136-137)

Sovereign Over All Things

Job 42:1 Then Job answered the LORD and said: **2** "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

Sovereign Over What Seems Random

Prov. 16:33 The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

Sovereign Over Most Powerful Rulers

Prov. 21:1 The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.

Sovereign Over Our Daily Lives

Prov. 20:24 A man's steps are from the LORD; how then can man understand his way?

Prov. 19:21 Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.

Sovereign Over Life and Death

1Sam. 2:6 The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

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Sovereign Over Man's Imperfections

Ex. 4:11 Then the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?"

Sovereign Over Salvation

Rom. 9:13 As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated." **14** What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! **15** For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." **16** So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. **17** For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." **18** So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills. **19** You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" **20** But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" **21** Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use?

Acts 13:48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

Sovereign Over Weather & All Creation

Psa. 135:6 Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps. **7** He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth, who makes lightnings for the rain and brings forth the wind from his storehouses.

Job 28:25 When he gave to the wind its weight and apportioned the waters by measure, **26** when he made a decree for the rain and a way for the lightning of the thunder,

Job 36:32 He covers his hands with the lightning and commands it to strike the mark.

Sovereign Over the Entire Universe

Speaking of Jesus, of course...but Jesus is God...triune nature, etc.

Heb. 1:3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power...

Col. 1:17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Sovereign Over the Death of Jesus

Isa 53:10 "Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief;...

Acts 2:23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

How Does This Attribute Affect the Christian?

1 – Sovereignty of God – Pulling All Attributes Together

Let's consider this:

