

The Sovereignty of God  
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I want to talk about an important subject, the subject of God's sovereignty. Sometimes we go along and are just doing our own thing, but we forget that God is personally involved in every person's life, and in everything that happens in this world. But more than that, He's carrying out His plans, His will. He's doing what He wants to do, He's always fulfilling His purposes.

Dan. 4:34-35. The devil is the ruler of this world, but he's under God's authority and rule, and God is the King and this world is His kingdom, His dominion. And God is so strong, so much in control that, on one hand, it seems like people are nothing, are nobodies. Isaiah 40:15-17 - And all things God does are in accordance with His will - He does what He wants with the host of heaven, which means He is over all the angels and all the demons. And He does what He wants with each and every person on this earth. No one can hold back God's hand, no one can stop Him from doing what He wants to do; and no one can question God - He does whatever pleases Him. Ps. 135:5-7, Rom. 9:18-20

So God is sovereign, He's in charge, He's in control, He does what He wants to do in this world. And there are no accidents - things in this world don't just happen if God doesn't want them to happen. The truth is that God is sovereign, that God is intimately involved in every person's life and in every single thing that takes place. - Proverbs 16:9. You may plan your way, you may plan your day out, the things you want to do, the people you want to see, but God directs every single step of your life. Prov. 19:21 - *"Many plans are in a man's heart, but the counsel of the Lord will stand."*

So God is the King, God is sovereign over all, and there's no other god, no other being or person that tells God what to do. And that's the way it has always been and that's the way it always will be. Ps. 90:2 - *"Before the mountains were born or you gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, you are God."*

Now the Bible tells us why God is sovereign, why He can do whatever He wants.

1. God has all power. By His power, God created the world, and He sustains the world. He has power to do anything. He has power over everyone and everything.
  2. God is omniscient, He knows everything about everyone and everything. Ps. 139:1-18. God knows the past, present, and future about every person and every thing in the world.
  3. God is all wise - He has infinite intelligence and wisdom. God made the universe and knows exactly how all things work. God made people and knows how we should live, how we should relate, how we should do church. And he knows how countries should operate too. God has all the answers for every person, situation, or problem.
- And all that God does is in complete accordance with His will and His perfect wisdom.

4. God is holy. This means He's unique, set apart, and far superior to every other being and every other thing. He's supreme, He's God, and there's no one like Him. Ps. 89:6-14  
- And God is sinless, He is perfect - He thinks, He says, and He does everything right.  
- And because God is holy, then He's just, He's righteous, and He can't excuse evil, He can't just let it go. God must punish all that is wrong, evil, and unrighteous.

5. God is loving. He is kind, gentle, and compassionate. He has a special place in his heart for people, for they're made in His image. He's devoted to all people, He loves all people. God is good and gives what is good. He gives us food and relationships and personalities and a beautiful creation, and He gives us birds and flowers. Matt. 5:45b - "*He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.*" And God is forgiving. Through His Son Jesus Christ, who was punished for our sins, who died to pay for our sins, God forgives people, takes away their guilt - He shows mercy to those who repent of their sin and look to Him for forgiveness. Titus 3:5-7

6. God has a purpose for this world, and for every person in this world. God didn't create this world and the people on it, and just let them go and do what they want. All that has happened, and all that will happen is part of God's eternal purpose, His eternal plans. And because God is God, because He has all power, because He's omniscient, wise, holy, loving, good, and forgiving, then He can be sovereign, He can be ruler over all things, and He can fulfill all His purposes and plans. And so this truth, this fact that God is sovereign stems from and results from all these other character qualities of God.

And this truth that God is sovereign enables Him to fulfill His purpose. And nothing can stop God, and no one will stop God, and no one will thwart His plans, and that's because God is God, because He is sovereign, because He's in complete control, and does whatever He wants, whatever He pleases. Psalm 33:10-11. God isn't sovereign for no reason, He's sovereign because He wants to accomplish His will, He wants to carry out His plans, and He will, because He's sovereign.

Let's look at some examples of this. Psalm 93. It starts off by saying that the Lord reigns, that God is sovereign, that He's the King, the ruler of the world. And what do we read about God, this King, this Ruler?

- We read that He is strong, and by His strength He established the world, and it won't be moved. We read that God is mightier, stronger than the seas, than the pounding waves. The ocean is His ocean and His waves, and He controls it. Mark 4:39, Jer. 5:22.

- And we read that God is eternal, that He is from everlasting. And so God has always been sovereign, from eternity past. He's sovereign today, and He'll be sovereign forever.

We read that the sovereign God is holy, which means He's completely set apart, distinct from every other being, every angel, every person, and every thing.

That God is holy means He's also righteous and just, and therefore, as a sovereign God, He's been executing justice all over the world, and He'll continue to execute justice, and we're seeing that now in our world and in our country. God has been judging this country. Hab. 1

- So God can be sovereign because of His character. And His character that's stated in Ps. 93 is that He's powerful, eternal, and holy. And God's sovereignty is necessary for Him to carry out His purpose. And His purpose that's stated in Ps. 93 is that He is sovereign over this world, and He is sovereign over His testimonies, His word.

Another chapter that speaks about God's sovereignty is Psalm 97. So what do we learn? Just like we saw in Ps. 97, we start by reading that God reigns, that He's sovereign. And because God is sovereign, because He's in charge, we should rejoice and be glad. What it would be like if God wasn't sovereign, if people did whatever they wanted? This world would be in a terrible mess, and we'd be worried and upset and anxious, but God is sovereign, and so we can be at peace and be filled with joy.

Here we see that God's righteousness and justice are foundational to His throne, are key components of His sovereignty, of His rule, of His reign over this world. We see that fire burns up God's enemies. Because God is holy, because He is just, then He must punish His enemies. And His enemies not only worship idols, but boast in their idols - in their money, their possessions, their sports teams, or whatever it might be. And they should be worshipping God. And God punishes those who don't worship Him, and He can do that because He's holy, and because He's sovereign - He has the right, the power, the ability, and the wisdom to do it, and perfectly so. Lk. 12:19-20, USA

And we read about the presence of the Lord - God is not hands off, is not distant when it comes to the affairs of the world, He is present, He is here, and He is actively involved, He is in charge, and He is carrying out His will. We see that in the lightning. And in Tampa, God often uses the weather, the lightning, the storms, to stop you, to keep you from doing what you want. God wants you and every person in this world to know that He's on the throne, He's sovereign, and He's present, and He does whatever He wants - but you can't do whatever you want. James 4:13-15

- And because God is sovereign, then He's far, far exalted above all gods and idols. And God exalts Himself and shows that He's sovereign so that we're humbled and He's exalted.

And Ps. 97 speaks of three groups of people who are affected by this:

- There is the world, the unbelievers, and they are humbled, they are strongly affected by God's sovereignty, and by God's holy justice.

- There's Zion, there's Judah, and this is the Jews, and they're directly affected by God's sovereignty, by His judgments. This happened in the past with the Jews, and will happen in these end-times, and when He reigns over the world with them during the kingdom age.

Third, there are God's people, the believers. God is sovereign in that He intervenes in our lives by not punishing us but, instead, gives us light, He reveals His truth to us, and shows us mercy. Not only that, God protects us from evil and delivers us from evil people. This should drive you to Himself, to love and worship Him, and to hate evil, and this results in you being filled with joy, and in rejoicing in God, and giving thanks to Him. And if you put any idols before God, then He will discipline you. Heb. 12:14

Eph 1:9-11. This too talks about God's sovereignty, for God is carrying out His will for this earth, and for people on this earth. His purpose is that all things will be summed up in Christ, and this happens in the fullness of the times, which is at the end of this age, That is, Christ will be ruling directly over all things and all people. And this happens during the 1000-year kingdom age when Christ is reigning over the world. Phil. 2:9-11 - Eph. 1:11 says that God "*works all things after the counsel of His will*", and this means that God is sovereign over all things from all of history, and now in these end-times, and it's all leading to the return of Christ, the rapture of the church, the glorification of believers, the salvation of the Jews, and Christ's reign over this world.

Romans 8:28. This too talks about God's sovereignty and says that God is working in each believer's life. And He is causing all things to work together for our good, and this good is referring to God's purpose for us, which is described in vs. 29. - Rom. 8:29. God's purpose for us is the completion of our salvation, that we be conformed to the image of Christ, that we receive a glorified body. Rom. 8:30

Now we've talked about God's sovereignty. But the fact that God is sovereign does not eliminate our responsibility as individuals, and as Christians. - Acts 13:48 - "*As many as were appointed to eternal life believed.*" Prov. 16:9, Phil. 2:12-13. Now next week we'll talk more about God's sovereignty, and specifically how it relates to our own lives. Psalm 99