"God is in Full Control"



(He is in Charge of Everything)
I Chron. 29:11 & Selected Scriptures
1/12/07

INTRODUCTION: What is sovereignty?
***God is in control!**

I. God is sovereign over <u>HEAVEN & EARTH</u> (Deut. 10:14-17)
(God is in control of the <u>universe</u>)

A. God is in control of Heaven

B. God is in control of Earth

II. God is sovereign over <u>KINGS & NATIONS</u>
(God is in control of emperors and empires)

A. God is in control of kings

B. God is in control of nations (Deut. 32:8, 39)

III. God is sovereign over the lives of <u>EACH INDIVIDUAL</u>
(God is in control of all that has breath)

A. Man's <u>personality</u> and <u>abilities</u> from conception are in His hands
(Ps. 139:13-16; Ex. 4:11)

B. Man's <u>circumstances of life</u> are in His hands

C. Man's <u>very breath</u> and <u>heart beat</u> are in His hands

IV. God is sovereign over the <u>SALVATION</u> of men
(God is in control of man's eternal destiny)

A. God alone chooses **<u>HOW</u>** He will save (Eph.1:3-11)
(God's sovereignty and the <u>plan</u> of Salvation)

B. God alone chooses **<u>WHOM</u>** He will save (I Th.2:13; Rom.9)
(God's sovereignty and the <u>people</u> of Salvation)

See: John 6:37, 39, 44, 65; I Pet.1:2; Acts 13:48
Sovereignty does not exclude human <u>responsibility</u> (not fatalistic)
Sovereignty does not exclude human <u>accountability</u>

V. God is sovereign over <u>FUTURE EVENTS</u>
(God is in control of what lies ahead)
(See: Isaiah 41:4; 42:9; 46:10; 48:5,6; Acts 15:18)

Conclusion:
Because God is Sovereign:
1. He has every right to tell us what to do (I Cor. 6:19-20)
2.He is worthy of our complete trust (Rom.8:28 - Everything is under control)

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INTRODUCTION: What is sovereignty?

God's sovereignty is "the exercise of His supremacy" (Pink).

It describes His authority over all creation. His rulership, His authority, His throne.

God is "subject to none, influences by none, absolutely independent; God does as He pleases, only as He pleases, always as He pleases" (Pink).

As God's love would describe the heart of God, God's omniscience would describe the mind of God, it is God's sovereignty that describes the <u>will</u> of God.

God says, "I will do all my pleasure" (Is. 46:10). God is working all things "after the counsel of His own will" (Eph. 1:11).

Words that describe God's sovereignty:

1. "The most high God" (Gen. 14:20)
2. "The God of gods (Dt. 10:17)
3. "The Lord of lords" (Dt. 10:17)
4. "King" (Ps. 29:10; 47:2, 3, 7, 8)
5. "Judge" (Ps. 75:7)
6. "Ruler"
7. "Lawgiver" (Is. 33:22)
8. "The Author and Finisher"

"Whatsoever is under the whole heaven is mine" (Job 41:11)

***God is in control!**

I. God is sovereign over HEAVEN & EARTH (Deut. 10:14-17)

(God is in control of the universe)

God has every right and ability to be sovereign over creation because He is the Creator of it (II Ki. 19:15).

God is called: "Possessor of heaven and earth" (Gen. 14:19)

The harlot Rahab admitted: "The LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath" (Josh. 2:11).

A. God is in control of Heaven

"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be cone on earth as it is in heaven. Thine is the kingdom. . ." (Mt. 6:10, 13)

B. God is in control of Earth

". . . the earth is the Lord's" (Ex. 9:26).

Ps. 24:1 - "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world, and they that dwell therein."

SEE Ps. 50:10-12.

Who is regulating affairs on this earth today--God or the devil? (Pink). God or man? God or mere chance?

Even though the earth ultimately belongs to God and is ultimately under the control of God:

---He has ordained man to subdue it (Gen. 1:26-28; cp. Ps. 115:16)

---He has allowed Satan an element of influence over the world's system (Lk. 4:5-6; II Cor. 4:4).

1. God controls the earth's weather

   a. Miraculously - Exod. 9:29 (hailstorm in Egypt)
      Josh. 10:12-14 (sun stood still for 24 extra hours)
      James 5:17-18 (rain delay for 3 years & 6 months)

   b. Providentially -

   The Lord upholds all things by the word of His power (Heb. 1:3)

2. God controls the earth's food supply

   EX: 7 year famine in Canaan & Egypt (Gen. 41:29-32)

II. God is sovereign over KINGS & NATIONS

(God is in control of emperors and empires)

A. God is in control of kings

God is "He that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that bringeth the princes to nothing; He maketh the judges of the earth as vanity" (Is. 40:22-23).

SEE: Prov. 21:1 - "The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD. . ." (cp. Ezra 6:22, 7:27).

It is God who removes kings and sets up kings (Dan. 2:21).

EX: Nebuchadnezzar (Dan. 4:3, 17, 25, 35-37)
Belshazzar (Dan. 5:18, 26-28)

B. God is in control of nations (Deut. 32:8, 39)

He withholds land from those to whom He chooses (Deut. 2:19).

Don't seek exaltation from men, but from God (Ps. 75:6-7).

"The LORD reigneth; let the people tremble" (Ps. 90:1).

Every knee will one day bow (Is. 45:28).

III. God is sovereign over the lives of EACH INDIVIDUAL

(God is in control of all that has breath)

Moses called the LORD - "The God of the spirits of all flesh"

God Himself declared: "Behold, all souls are mine" (Ezek. 18:4).

"We are clay, He is the potter" (Jer. 18:6).

A. Man's personality and abilities from conception are in His hands (Ps. 139:13-16; Ex. 4:11)

Solomon observed "that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God" (Eccl. 9:1).

No one has any strength unless God allows it; no one has any wealth, fame, wisdom or power unless God allows it.

As Jesus said to Pilate, who thought he had power to either crucify or release Jesus: "Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above." (Jn. 19:11a)

B. Man's circumstances of life are in His hands

God "hath determined the times before appointed" (Acts 17:26).

Hannah's testimony to God's sovereignty - I Sam. 2:6-8.

C. Man's very breath and heart beat are in His hands

In God's "hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind." (Job 12:10).

". . . None can keep alive his own soul" (Ps. 22:29).

". . . I have the keys of death and hell" (Rev. 1:18).

Jesus has all authority (Mt. 28:19) over:
1)the timing of death, and
2.the place of the deputed death

Application:
Don't trust in "uncertain riches" but in the living God (I Tim. 6:15-17).

IV. God is sovereign over the SALVATION of men

(God is in control of man's eternal destiny)

A. God alone chooses how He will save (Eph. 1:3-11)

(God's sovereignty and the plan of salvation)

B. God alone chooses whom He will save (I Thes. 2:13; Rom. 9:14-29)

(God's sovereignty and the people of salvation)

SEE: John 6:37, 39, 44, 65;
I Pet. 1:2
Acts 13:48

Sovereignty does not exclude human responsibility

"Is man a mere puppet whose actions are determined by a behind-the-scenes God who pulls the strings as it pleases Him?" (Tozer, p. 184).

A belief in God's sovereignty is not a fatalistic attitude.

We cannot have a "whatever will be, will be" attitude.

God has given man a will by which we can choose to do His will or not to choose to do His will.

God is so sovereign that He can give mankind freedom of choice, and yet everything still fulfills His perfect plan.

"A God less than sovereign could not bestow moral freedom upon His creatures. He would be afraid to do so" (Tozer, p. 185).

Sovereignty does not exclude human accountability.

Man will answer for his own sin. God is not responsible for it.

Question regarding sovereignty:

If God controls everything and nothing happens outside of His allowing it:

--Why did He allow sin to enter the world? (SEE Rom. 9:22)

a. So that He could show His wrath

God's wrath is one aspect of His nature that would forever go unseen if he had not allowed sin to enter the world.

b. So that He could show His power

1) God's power is seen in His ability to judge

2) God's power is seen in His ability to redeem sinners

V. God is sovereign over FUTURE EVENTS

(God is in control of what lies ahead)

NOTE: The connection between God's pre-determined plan and His foreknowledge (Acts 2:23)

Isaiah 41:4, 42:9, 46:10, 48:5, 6

Acts 15:18 - "Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world."

"Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commanded it not?" (Lam. 3:37).

CONCLUSION:

Because God is sovereign:

He needs no permission to do what He wants.

He goes to no one for advice.
(There is no higher court of appeal than God)

No one changes or interrupts His plan

1. God has every right to tell us what to do.

Is He on the throne of your life?

I Corinthians 6:19-20
V. 19b

You can't say, "It's my life, my body, and I will live it anyway I want."

Many don't come to Christ because they don't want to give up ownership rights.

"Ye are not your own" - If you are saved, you don't own yourself. You don't belong to yourself. You belong to the One who made you and redeemed you (ILLUS: The "Little Red Boat" story)

V. 20

"Ye are bought" - bought at the market place (as a slave in the days of ancient Rome).

"Ye are bought with a price" - Christ's blood (Acts 20:18; Heb. 9:12; I Peter 1:18; Rev. 5:9).

"Therefore" - Drawing a conclusion.

Since God lives in us and owns us, we are obligated to live for His glory (I Cor. 10:31) (i.e. that God would be well thought of by how you live).

If you love the Lord, you will do that which pleases Him.

In the last days, "men will be lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God."

The world seeks to get pleasure; the Christian seeks to give it.

We must conduct our lives in a way that pleases God. Are you more interested in God's pleasure than your own?

"To Glorify God" is the goal of the way we live.

2. God is worthy of our complete trust.

Everything is under His control (Rom. 8:28)

Our HEAVENLY FATHER has a PLAN for us (v. 28)

A .His plan works everything out for good (v. 28)

1. Our confidence in God's plan ("We know")

   "We know" - an intuitive knowledge; a full and complete confidence.

2. The completeness of God's plan ("all things")

   "All things" - would include all types of suffering (remember suffering is in view in context - v. 17, 18).
   [Tragedies, natural disasters, physical impairments, etc.]

   We may not be able to see how it will turn out for good because we are only looking at one piece of the puzzle. But God has an overall "purpose" (v.28b).

3. The harmony of God's plan ("work together")

   "Work together" - Each event, circumstance, or person that God puts into our life will blend together and produce a good outcome.

4. The faithfulness of God's plan ("for good")

   "For good" = not merely good in the present life (v. 29), but ultimately in the life to come (v. 30).

   Our life many times may seem like it is going in circles, but like a winding staircase, "each step is higher than the preceding one, and it is still upward!" (Thomas, p. 225).

   If you are walking with God and in His will, everything (even "suffering" - cp. Ro. 8:17, 18) will turn out for good in the end.

   EX: Joseph: "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meat it unto good" (Gen. 50:20).

   God said: People like Daniel and Nehemiah were carried away captive "into the land of the Chaldeans for their good. For I will set Mine eyes upon them for good. . ." (Jer. 24:5, 6).

   ILLUS: Man who thought of the Suez Canal while quarantined in the Mediterranean (Thomas, p. 228).

5. The restriction of God's plan ("to them...")

   This promise can only be claimed by a certain group of people. It only applies to a specific people. This promise is not for everyone!

   Who is this promise for?

   1) "To them that **love** God"

   2) "To them who are the called..."

   These two phases describe a genuine believer from two angles:

   --From man's vantage point - We will love God.

The phrase: "To them that love God" is emphatic in Greek, being first in the sentence.

"Loving God" is an evidence of real salvation.

"...For love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God" (I Jn. 4:7).

"...God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God and god in him" (I Jn. 4:16).

"we love Him, because He first loved us"
(I Jn. 4:19).

I Cor. 16:22 - "If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maran-atha"

--From God's vantage point - He called (invited) us.

"The called" are: Those whom God invited to salvation (Ro. 1:6, 7) by means of the gospel (II Th. 2:14) and those who accepted His invitation (Mt. 22:14).

"Purpose" - basically refers to God's plan. The word literally means: "To place before" or to "set a course in advance."

Life is not haphazard chance, nor fate for the child of God. Rather, our lives follow the course that has been established by God.

Nothing happens by accident.

Nothing catches God off guard.

Nothing surprises God.

Why? Because He is sovereign over all. Such a sovereign God is worthy of your trust.