



Topic:
The Sovereign God - (*The Absoluteness of God*)

For I know that the Lord is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatsoever the Lord pleased, that did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.

~ Psalm 135:5-6 (KJV) ~

Dr. K. L. Thompson, Remnant of God Deliverance Ministry, Inc.
www.ROGDM.org

INTRODUCTION

As Christians, we have often heard that God is sovereign and in His sovereignty, He can do what he wants to do and do it when he wants to do it. In His sovereignty, God is the supreme power and authority over all creation. Ezekiel 18:4 declares that “*all souls are God’s*” meaning He is the creator of all who have ever been and who ever will be born. When I think of this, it brings me to the lesson the Lord wanted to teach Jeremiah when He sent him to the potter’s house:

Jeremiah 18:1-6 (KJV)

The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, Arise, and go down to the potter’s house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words. Then I went down to the potter’s house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it. Then the word of the Lord came to me saying, O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? Saith the Lord. Behold, as the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel.

The sovereignty of God may be defined as God’s absolute control over all His creation. This would include His absolute control over all His creatures and all their actions. Man might object to this, but is this not God’s right? After all, it is His creation. Absolute sovereignty, is that not a part of what is means to be God?

In foolishness men who have not yet come into the knowledge of who God is in all His splendor and awesomeness seek to entertain the notion that they can exist independent of God. This false concept was introduced to man by the devil back in the Garden of Eden. God had explicitly given command to Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil explaining to Adam that in that day he does disobey God’s command, he shall surely die (*cf. Genesis 2:17*). When the devil engaged in conversation with Eve making the statement that “ye shall not surely die” (*cf. Genesis 3:4*), he was asserting that God, in fact, has no control over His creatures. What the devil essentially said is that God may threaten man as a means of inducing their obedience to His commandments, but He is unable to carry out His threat, man’s life is independent of God. However, the reality of God’s absoluteness and God’s sovereignty came when, upon partaking of the forbidden tree, Adam and Eve tragically found the devil’s insinuation to be a lie. The truth, as it is expressed by the apostle Paul before the Athenians, is that “in God we live, and move, and have our existence” (*cf. Acts 17:28*).

OUR STUDY

Our study scripture (Psalm 135:5-6) should inspire us to understand that there is no reason to question the authority and sovereignty of God just because we don't understand what is happening or what did happen. 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 (*cf. Romans 9:21*)? God is free to choose whom he will, He has every right to do what He pleases and all that He does is according to what pleases Him.

It behooves us to simply submit to God's will as this will definitely make our life so much the better.

What does the phrase "God Is Sovereign" really mean?

If we were to look up the word "sovereign" in the dictionary, we would find words and phrases like:

- Superior
- Greatest
- Supreme in Power and Authority
- Ruler
- Independent of all others

However, the best way to explain God's sovereignty is to simply say: "**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, God has no limitations. Let's explore just a few of the claims the Bible make about God: (*All scripture below taken from the NKJV.*)

- **Psalm 103:19.** The Lord has established His throne in heaven, And His kingdom rules over all.
- **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.
- **Romans 11:33.** 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!
- **Colossians 1:16.** For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for 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 thirsts.

Being sovereign means being the ultimate source of all power, authority, and everything that exists. Only God can make those claims; therefore, it's God's sovereignty that makes Him superior to all other gods and makes Him, and Him alone, worthy of worship.

How can I trust God's sovereign control over my life?

The only way to trust in God's sovereign control and rest in it is to know God. Know His attributes, know what He has done in the past, and this builds confidence in Him. This is what the prophet Daniel meant

when he quoted in Daniel 11:32 “...but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.” In this 11th chapter of the book of Daniel, the prophet continues his prediction of future events he had begun to share in chapter 10. Daniel speaks of times of wicked rulers among the people whose goal and agenda is to corrupt and lead the people astray. Only those who know their God and who are assured of God’s absolute sovereign power and whose trust is in the Sovereign God will be strong and able to stand in this day. Let’s make it quite clear right now that we are living in these times. Unless we embrace an intimate relationship with the Lord and trust in his lordship over our lives, we will not be able to stand and withstand against the wiles of the devil that is active in the land today.

Make no mistakes about the truth that you cannot and will not trust someone you don’t know. Therefore we must do as the prophet Isaiah encouraged us to do if we ever hope to come into a true relationship and knowledge of the Lord to the point that it births a trust in the Lord within our very being.

Isaiah 55

- **Verse 1:** We must thirst after the Lord. We must have an insistent desire for the things of God.
- **Verse 2:** We must hearken diligently unto the Lord. We must submit to listening attentively to the things of God giving heed every word that proceeds forth from the Lord. We must be persistent in our efforts.
- **Verse 3:** Incline our ear and come unto the Lord. There must be willingness within us for the things of God.
- **Verse 6:** Seek the Lord while he may be found. We must be in constant pursuit of the knowledge of God in this present day.
- **Verse 7:** Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts. Let us return unto the Lord. We must be cleansed from all unrighteous actions and even thoughts. The only way we can be righteous before the Lord is if we have returned unto the Lord. Understand that it takes a power greater than any we have alone to cleanse us from all filthiness and unrighteousness.

There is only one way to know God—through His Word. There is no magic formula to make us spiritual giants overnight, no mystical prayer to pray three times a day to mature us, build our faith, and make us towers of strength and confidence. There is only the Word of God (the Bible), the source of power that will change our lives from the inside out. A major part of this change is our coming into a trusting relationship with the Lord. As we grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, we grow in our confidence and trust in His sovereign control over our life. God has a perfect plan for every person’s life and He alone has the absolute power to effect that plan.

CONCLUSION

Remember the sovereignty of God is the biblical teaching that all things are under God’s rule and control, and that nothing happens without His direction or permission. God works not just some things but all things according to the counsel of His own will (*cf. Ephesians 1:11*). His purposes are all-inclusive and never thwarted; nothing takes Him by surprise. Remember my brother and sister that the sovereignty of

God is not merely that God has the power and right to govern all things, but that He does so, always and without exception. In other words, we can take heart in knowing that God is not merely sovereign *de jure* (in principle), but sovereign *de facto* (in practice). He is the ruler over our lives in whom we can trust with our life.

God's peace and blessing be upon you....

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