

OUR SOVEREIGN GOD

Introduction

- Proper understanding of the Sovereignty of God is v_____. It affects how we view biblical & world h_____, our present circumstances, and our future h_____.
- We must get our understanding of the sovereignty of God from the Word of God.
- **Ps.103:19** *The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His sovereignty rules over all.*
- Also translated **kingdom** and refers to God's royal power, His dominion over all.
- The sovereignty of God is His supremacy and c_____l over all that occurs.
- **1Tim.6:13-16**, *I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He will bring about at the proper time – He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.*
- The nation of I_____ initially was a Theocracy. God was their Sovereign King.
- Eventually Israel rejected God as their King and wanted a human king.
- **1 Sam.8:11-17** God said, *This will be the procedure of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and place them for himself in his chariots and among his horsemen and they will run before his chariots. He will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and of fifties, and some to do his plowing and to reap his harvest and to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. He will also take your daughters for perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and your vineyards and your olive groves and give them to his servants. He will take a tenth of your seed and of your vineyards and give to his officers and to his servants. He will also take your male servants and your female servants and your best young men and your donkeys and use them for his work. He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his servants.*
- Every Subject of the kingdom was to live in subjection to the king and his laws.
- Western society has replaced it with rugged individualism and self-reliance which leads to telling everyone, including God, "Nobody's gonna tell me what to do!"
- But if we are in Christ, we are now living under a Sp_____l Theocratic Kingdom.
- **Rom.6:18** says that we were **freed from** (slavery to) **sin** and **became slaves of righteousness**.
- **1Cor.6:19-20** *...do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you... and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.*
- We are slaves of God. We are under His Sovereign rule, care, and keeping.
- God reigns over believers but is also sovereign over all people & all circumstances.
- Satan is the small god of this world and he rages and roars and fights against God.
- But S_____ is also under the sovereign rule and plan of God. See **Job 1**
- Nothing comes into our lives unless initiated by or allowed by our Sovereign King.

The Little Picture

- In **Gen.37** Joseph was 17 years old living with his father Jacob and family in Canaan.
- The brothers hatched a plan to murder Joseph but Judah persuaded them to sell Joseph into slavery so they could at least p_____ from Joseph's demise.
- Joseph found himself enslaved in Egypt and remained faithful to the Lord.
- **Gen.39** tells us how Joseph was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife and put in prison.
- Remaining faithful to the Lord Joseph was elevated to Head Inmate.
- After some time, **Gen.40** tells us Pharaoh's baker & cupbearer joined Joseph in jail.
- **Gen.41** tells us that it was **at the end of two full years that Pharaoh had a dream...**
- Joseph was forgotten and was rotting in jail for two more years...thanks cupbearer.
- Joseph gives Pharaoh God's meaning behind the dream-7 good & 7 really bad years.
- Joseph was e_____d to a position of making sure grain was saved.
- During the 7 years of famine, Joseph's brothers came to buy grain in Egypt.

- Eventually Jacob and all 70 family members moved to Egypt.
- A story of miraculously aligned circumstances to bring about Israel's preservation.
- We see God's supremacy & control over these circumstances to accomplish His will.
- The story of Joseph and the preservation of Israel in Egypt is only the **little picture**.
- Not insignificant circumstances, but over a relatively short period of time.

The Big Picture

- **Gen.12:2-3** God initiated a covenant with Abram...the beginning of Israel.
- God would use Israel to judge the nations in Canaan and give the land to Israel.
- Israel was the vessel thru which flowed the Word of God to the rest of the world.
- But first there was another promise God made to Abram that had to be fulfilled...
- **Gen.15:13-16, 18** Abram's descendants would be e_____d 400 years.
- God didn't tell Abram of future famine & the need for Israel's preservation in Egypt.
- There is a **bigger picture** in God's sovereign plan which began in Garden of Eden.

The Bigger Picture

- From the very moment sin entered the world through Adam, God made a promise.
- **Gen.3:15** God's promised a Savior that would be born of a virgin and defeat Satan.
- The Messiah would become the sinless, spotless, & satisfactory Sacrifice for sins.
- The human lineage of the Messiah would run through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Judah...all the way to Mary, physical mother of Jesus & Joseph, legal father of Jesus.
- God's supremacy and control of the circumstances preserved the l_____ of Christ.

The Even Bigger Picture

- **1Pet.1:1-2** *To those who reside as aliens...who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood...*
- **Eph.1:5,11** *He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will...also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will...*
- **2Thes.2:13** *...God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.*
- **1Cor.1:26,31** *consider your calling brethren...by His doing you are in Christ Jesus...*
- **Ac.13:48** *...as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.*
- **2Tim.1:9** *...Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity...*
- God's supremacy and control over everything from eternity past to eternity future has made our salvation sure since before the world was even made.
- If you are in Christ it is because God sovereignly c_____e you and at the right time sovereignly s_____d you. *To God be the Glory! Great things He Has Done!*

The Problem

- Our lives are touched by this life's struggles: illness, death, and pain.
- God is in control of our little picture present day circumstances just as He is in control of His eternal big picture plans for us.

The Promise

- **Rom.8:28-30** We can be confident that all things work out for our ultimate good.
- The things themselves don't do anything. It is God who causes them to be good.
- Who is this promise for? **Those who love God.** Who loves God? **Those...called according to His purpose.** Who are the called? **Those whom He foreknew** and **also predestined** and **also justified** and **also glorified.**
- God's supremacy and control in drawing us to Christ for salvation is crystal clear.
- God's supremacy and control in circumstances of slavery to righteousness is clear.
- Where can we go away from the presence of our omnipresent Lord? N_____
- What can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus? N_____
- When do circumstances enter our lives outside of God's sovereign control? N_____
- **Rom.8:18** No believer now in the presence of God is grumbling about this life.

Conclusion

- **Gen.50:15-20** Joseph's very difficult circumstances were not random.
- **God meant them for good!**
- We must not put ourselves **in God's place**, telling Him what we can or can't handle.
- We must be patiently faithful, becoming more and more like Christ in our struggles.
- Let God be God. With patience and confidence in God we must endure. **And let endurance have its perfect work, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. Jms.1:4**
- Properly understanding the Sovereignty of God, we can live confidently & full of joy.
- Knowing that God is in control of the "now" and the "then" purposes for our lives.
- That nothing comes into our lives unless initiated by or allowed by our loving King.
- **If we are in Christ...if we love the Lord...God will cause circumstances to work out for our ultimate good and His eternal glory!**