

Study 6. The Sovereignty of God

Do you agree or disagree with the statement below?

Since God is fully supreme, there is nothing that is impossible for Him to do!

(circle one) Agree Disagree Why do you agree or disagree?

What Does the Sovereignty of God mean?

God has **TOTAL POWER!** Isaiah 40:10 says, "See, the Sovereign *Lord* comes with *power* and His arm *rules* for him."

God has **TOTAL FREEDOM!** Psalm 115:3 says, "Our God is in heaven; he does *whatever* pleases him."

God has **TOTAL AUTHORITY!** 1 Chronicles 29:11-12 says, "O Lord...you are exalted as *head* over *all*... you are *ruler* of *all* things."

The Hebrew word for Lord (*Adonay*) means to rule, be controller, owner, and master in divine realms.

Quotable Quotes!

"The sovereignty of God may be defined as the exercise of His supremacy." A. Pink

"God is said to be absolutely free because no one and no thing can hinder Him or compel Him or Stop Him. He is able to do as He pleases always, everywhere, forever." A.W. Tozer

What Does The Bible Say About God's Sovereignty?

Look up the assigned passage and list below what it says about the Sovereignty of God:

Psalm 47

vs. 2 - God is "awesome...the Lord *most high*...the great king *over all* the earth! "

vs. 3 – God "*subdues* nations under his feet ."

vs. 4 – God *chose* Israel as his "inheritance."

vs.5-6 - God is "the *Lord*...our *king*"!

vs. 7 – God is "the *king* of *all* the earth."

vs. 8 – God "*reigns* over the nations...seated on his holy throne."

vs. 9 – God owns "the kings of the earth...he is *highly exalted*."

God's Sovereignty in Scripture! (cont.)

Ephesians 1:18-23

vs. 19 - He has "*incomparably great power* for us who believe...the working of his *mighty strength* which he exerted in Christ."

vs. 20 - He is "*seated...in* the heavenly realms."

vs. 21 - He is "*far above all* rule and authority, power dominion and every title."

vs. 22 - He has "*all things under* his feet...head over *everything* for the church."

Additional Passages on God's Sovereignty:

2 Chronicles 20:6 – "You *rule* over the kingdoms of the *earth...no one* can withstand you."

Psalms 103:19 – "The Lord has established his throne in heaven and his kingdom *rules over all*."

Daniel 4:25 – "Acknowledge that the Most High is *sovereign* over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes."

Matthew 28:18 – "*All authority* in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

Colossians 1:15 & 18 – "whether thrones, or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him...He is the *head...so that in everything* he might have *supremacy*."

Fact to know: The word *sovereign* or *sovereignty* is used 30x's in the Bible!

How do these passages on God's sovereignty make you feel about God?

What Allows God to be Sovereign?

God is **OMNIPOTENT!** (All-powerful)

He has *unlimited* and *unquestioned* power.

Jeremiah 32:17-18 says, "Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. *Nothing* is too hard for you...O great and powerful God."

Job 42:2 says, "I know you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted."

Quotable Quotes!

"He is subject to none, influenced by none, absolutely independent. God does as he pleases, only as he pleases. None can thwart him, none can hinder him." A. Pink

"Sovereignty and omnipotence must go together. One cannot exist without the other. To reign, God must have power to reign sovereignly." A.W. Tozer

What Allows God to be Sovereign? (cont.)

God is **OMNISCIENT!** (All-knowing)

He has a *perfect* balance of *wisdom* and power.

Psalm 119:168 says, "I obey your precepts and your statutes for *all* my ways are known to you."

Romans 11:33-34 says, "Oh, the depths of the riches of *wisdom* and knowledge of God...Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?"

Which of the following statements about God's omniscience is most startling to you? Why?

- God is never surprised!
- There is nothing God doesn't know!
- What God knows He has always known!
- God cannot learn anything new!

God is **OMNIPRESENT!** (All-present)

His presence is *universal* and *personal*.

1 Kings 8:27 says, "The heavens, even the highest heavens *cannot* contain you."

Psalm 16:11 says, "You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your *presence*."

God's presence is universal and personal!

Is There Anything Our Sovereign God Cannot do?

Yes ____ No ____ Unsure _____ Why?

Hebrews 6:18 says... it is **impossible** for God to **lie**."

Is this contrary to the idea that God is sovereign???

2 Timothy 2:13 says, "If we are faithless, he will **remain** faithful, for he **cannot** disown himself."

In other words, God will **NOT DO** anything that is **inconsistent** or **incompatible** with His character and His purposes.

What God's Sovereignty Does Not Mean

God's sovereignty does not mean...

That the existence of **evil** diminishes his power and control of the universe.

Remember Ephesians 1:21 - God is "*far above all* rule and authority, power, dominion, and every title." (That includes Satan, the angelic world, and the kingdoms of man.)

That man's freedom of **choice** lessens the supremacy of God.

Remember Psalm 115:3 says, "Our God is in heaven; he does *whatever* he pleases." (That includes the free will of man.)

God Has it **All** Under Control!

Neighbor Nudge: What else might you say to someone who questioned God's sovereignty because of the existence of evil and man's free will?

i.e. From eternity past, God planned and willed that His creation (angels and man) would have the freedom to choose who and if they would love and obey Him. Only a sovereign God would be unafraid and unintimidated to do so.

Quotable Quote: "There is perfect harmony between the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of the creature. It was God, in the exercise of his sovereignty that placed Satan, angels, and man in their respective responsible positions." A. Pink

What Does God's Sovereignty Mean to Me?

God's complete power **supports and sustains** me! Psalm 55:22 says, "Cast your cares on the Lord and he will *sustain* you: he will *never* let the righteous fall."

This gives me personal **confidence**! (Philippians 4:13)

God's complete wisdom **accepts and understands** me! Psalm 139:1-4 says, "You know me...you perceive my thoughts from afar...you are familiar with *all* my ways...you know it *completely*, O Lord."

This gives me personal **humility**! (1 Peter 5:5-6)

God's complete presence **comforts and surrounds** me! Psalm 139:8-10 says, "If I go to up to the heavens, *you are there*; if I make my bed in the depths, *you are there*...if I settle on the far side of the sea, *even there* your hand will *guide me*, your right hand will *hold me fast*."

This gives me personal **security**! (Psalm 46:1)

Habakkuk 3:17-19 says,

“Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines... (i.e. out of time)

Though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food... (i.e. out of money)

Though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls... (i.e. out of resources)

Yet, I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior...

The Sovereign Lord is my strength...he enables me to go on.”

A Truth to Know: God’s Presence is our Confidence!

Quotable Quote:

*“Pause to consider that God is infinitely **strong** and can do all that he pleases, and that he is infinitely **righteous** so that he only does what is right, and that he is infinitely **good** so that everything he does is perfectly good,...and that he is infinitely **wise** so that he always knows perfectly what is right and good, and that he is infinitely **loving** so that in all his strength and righteousness and goodness and wisdom he raises the eternal joy of his beloved.”*

Pastor John Piper

What Will You Do?

Finish the sentences below:

Because God is sovereign and supreme,

I want to trust Him for...

I want to give him free reign in my life to...