



# The Sovereignty of God

AND MAN'S DUTY TOWARDS IT

“

There is no attribute more comforting to His children than that of God's Sovereignty. Under the most adverse circumstances, in the most severe trials, they believe that Sovereignty has ordained their afflictions, that Sovereignty overrules them, and that Sovereignty will sanctify them all. There is nothing for which the children ought more earnestly to contend than the doctrine of their Master over all creation – the Kingship of God over all the works of His own hands – the Throne of God and His right to sit upon that Throne.

On the other hand, there is no doctrine more hated by worldings, no truth of which they have made such a football, as the great, stupendous, but yet most certain doctrine of the Sovereignty of the infinite Jehovah. Men will allow God to be everywhere except on His throne. They will allow Him to be in His workshop to fashion worlds and make stars. They will allow Him to be in His almonry to dispense His alms and bestow His bounties. They will allow Him to sustain the earth and bear up the pillars thereof, or light the lamps of heaven, or rule the waves of the ever-moving ocean...

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C.H. SPURGEON DIVINE  
SOVEREIGNTY, 1856, SERMON ON  
MATTHEW 20:15.



# **Sovereignty of God Outline**

- ▶ God's Sovereignty Defined
- ▶ Sovereignty Of God In Administration
- ▶ The Sovereignty Of God In Operation
- ▶ Difficulties And Objections
- ▶ Man's Responsibility
- ▶ Resources



# God's Sovereignty Defined

*Thine, O Lord is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all. - 1 Chron. 29:11*

*The Sovereignty of God is an expression that once was generally understood. It was a phrase commonly used in religious literature. It was a theme frequently expounded in the pulpit. It was a truth which brought comfort to many hearts and gave virility and stability to Christian character. But, today, to make mention of God's Sovereignty is, in many quarters, to speak in an unknown tongue.*



In defining The  
Sovereignty of God, we  
mean the **supremacy  
of God, the kingship of  
God, the godhood of  
God**

To say that God is  
Sovereign is to declare  
that He is the **Most High**  
(Dan 4:35)

To say that God is  
Sovereign is to declare  
that He is **the Almighty**  
(Psa. 115:3)

To say that God is  
Sovereign is to declare  
that He is "**The  
Governor among the  
nations**" (Psa. 22:28)

To say that God is  
Sovereign is to declare  
that He is **the "Only  
Potentate, the King of  
kings, and Lord of  
lords"** (1 Tim. 6:15)



## Sovereignty Of God In Administration

- *"The LORD hath prepared His Throne In the heavens; and His Kingdom ruleth over all" (Psa. 103:19).*
- **1. GOD GOVERNS INANIMATE MATTER.**
- *a. God said, "Let there be light," and we read, "There was light."*
- *b. We also Witness God's absolute (and Sovereign) control of inanimate matter in connection with the plagues of Egypt.*

# God In Administration Continued

▶ a. What a striking illustration of God's government over the animal kingdom is found in **Genesis 2:19!**

## ▶ 2. GOD GOVERNS IRRATIONAL CREATURES

▶ "And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air: and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof."

▶ b. Is further proof required? then it is ready at hand.

▶ God makes a dumb ass to rebuke the prophet's madness.

▶ He sends forth two she-bears from the woods to devour forty and two of Elijah's tormentors.

## ▶ 3. GOD GOVERNS THE CHILDREN OF MEN

▶ a. Two alternatives confront us, and between them we are obliged to choose: **either God governs, or He is governed; either God rules, or He is ruled;** either God has His way, or men have theirs.

▶ **Simply put God is either worthy of Worship and Honor or He is NOT!**

# God's "CONTROL" of Man

- Shall we say that in man we behold a **creature** so unruly that he is **beyond God's control**?
- Shall we say that sin has alienated the sinner so far from the thrice Holy One that he **is outside the pale of His jurisdiction**?
- Shall we say that man has been endowed with moral responsibility, and **therefore God must leave him entirely free**?
- Does it necessarily follow because the natural man is **an outlaw against Heaven**, a rebel against the Divine government, that **God is unable to fulfill His purpose through him**?
- we mean, that every action of the most lawless of His subjects is entirely beneath His control

# THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD IN OPERATION

*"For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to whom be the glory for ever. Amen" (Romans 11:36).*

*Has God foreordained everything that comes to pass? Another way of putting this is to ask, **Is God now governing the world and everyone and everything in it?***

*If **Yes**, then is He governing it according to a definite purpose, or aimlessly and at random?*

*If according to a purpose, **what is that Purpose?***

*Is God continually changing His purpose and making a new one every day; Are God's actions, like ours, **regulated by the change of circumstances?***

*What saith the Scriptures? They declare God is One "who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will" (**Eph. 1:11**).*

## God in Operation Continued

- ▶ **a. In the nature of things**, *there cannot be anything known as what shall be unless it is certain to be*
- ▶ **There is nothing certain to be unless God has ordained it shall be**
  - ▶ **Crucifixion** - Christ as the Lamb whose blood was to be shed was "foreordained before the foundation of the world" (1 Peter 1:20)
- ▶ **b. What is the great purpose of creation?**
  - ▶ Proverbs 16:4 and Revelation 4:11
- ▶ **c. . From all eternity God designed** that our world should be ***the stage on which He would display His manifold grace and wisdom*** in the redemption of lost sinners
- ▶ "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known... (Eph. 3:10-11.)

# God in Operation Continued

## ▶ a. GOD'S METHOD OF DEALING WITH THE RIGHTEOUS:

▶ 1. God exerts upon His own elect a quickening influence or power.

▶ *By nature, they are spiritually dead, dead in trespasses and sins, and their first need is spiritual life, for "Except a man be **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). In the new birth God brings us from **death unto life** (John 5:24). He imparts to us His **own nature** (2 Peter 1:4). He delivers us from the power of darkness and translates us into the **kingdom of His dear Son** (Col. 1:13). Now, manifestly, we could not do this ourselves **for we were "without strength"** (Rom. 5:6), hence it is written, "**we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus**" (Eph. 2:10).*

## ▶ b. GOD'S METHOD OF DEALING WITH THE WICKED:

▶ *God exerts upon the wicked **a restraining influence** by which they are prevented from doing what they are naturally inclined to do.*

▶ *God exerts upon the wicked **a softening influence** disposing them contrary to their natural inclinations to do that which will promote His cause.*

▶ *God exerts upon the wicked **a directing influence** so that good is made to result from their intended evil.*

▶ *God also **hardens the hearts of wicked** men and blinds their minds.*

▶ EXAMPLES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# DIFFICULTIES AND OBJECTIONS

"Yet ye say, The way of the Lord is not equal. Hear now, O house of Israel; Is not My way equal? are not your ways unequal?" (Ezek. 18:25).

**Balance of Truth** between the Sovereignty of God and Responsibility of Man

**Puppets or People** does man have free will? (Matthew 17:12; James 1:14; Deuteronomy 30:19)

**Does God repent** Genesis 6:6?

**The John 3:16 lie** - is or is not God is Sovereign in the exercise of His love

Irresistible **Power of Holy Spirit** in Salvation. (John 16:8)

## Man's Responsibility

- ▶ **Accept/Believe** – John 3 Jesus challenges Nicodemus and everyone else's listening unbelief or unacceptance of the truth
- ▶ **Accept or Believe What?**
- ▶ **"Sola Scriptura"** the rally cry of the protestant Reformation is the sole source of faith for the Christian. It demands acceptance of God's TOTAL Sovereignty.
- ▶ **"SOLA FIDA"** too demand acceptance of God's TOTAL Sovereignty, we contribute nothing to our salvation.
- ▶ **"Sola Gratia"** also demand acceptance of God's TOTAL Sovereignty, for only by God's amazing Grace are we saved.

# Pray for God's Sovereignty

- The heavens, even the heavens are thine, [Psalm 115:16\(KJV\)](#) and all the hosts of them. The earth is thine, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. [Psalm 24:1\(KJV\)](#) In thy hand are the deep places of the earth, and the strength of the hills are thine also: The sea is thine, for thou madest it, and thy hands formed the dry land. [Psalm 95:4-5\(KJV\)](#) All the beasts of the forest are thine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. [Psalm 50:10\(KJV\)](#) Thou art therefore a great God, and a great King above all gods. [Psalm 95:3\(KJV\)](#)
- In thy hand is the soul of every living thing and the breath of all mankind. [Job 12:10\(KJV\)](#)
- Thy dominion is an everlasting dominion, and thy kingdom is from generation to generation: Thou dost according to thy will in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth, and none can stay thy hand, or say unto thee, What dost thou? [Daniel 4:34-35\(KJV\)](#) or Why dost thou so?

# RESOURCES

- ▶ [A.W. Pink the Sovereignty of God, Chapel Library](#)
- ▶ [The Sovereignty of God Study Guide, Mt Zion Bible Institute](#)
- ▶ [God's Sovereignty, John Calvin](#)
- ▶ [God's Indisputable Sovereignty Pdf scripture References Chapel Library](#)
- ▶ [Divine Sovereignty and Evangelism, J.I. Packer](#)
- ▶ [God's Sovereignty and Glory, Derek Thomas](#)
- ▶ [God's Sovereignty and Our Responsibility - Ligonier Ministries](#)
- ▶ [Civil Government: An Exposition of Romans XIII. 1-7, James M. Wilson](#)
- ▶ [Sovereign Grace and Man's Responsibility, C. H. Spurgeon](#)
- ▶ [LBCF 1689 Chapter 9 of Free will](#)
- ▶ [Why One Way, John MacArthur](#)
- ▶ [Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God, Jonathan Edwards](#)
- ▶ [God's Indisputable Sovereignty, I. C. Herendeen \(1883-1982\)](#)
- ▶ [Daily Devotional – God and Government](#)