

BEHOLDING THE GOD OF SOVEREIGN SUPREMACY (Isaiah 44:24-45:7)

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- I. Definition of Divine Sovereignty: God exhaustively plans and meticulously carries out his perfect will as he alone knows is best, regarding all that is in heaven and on earth, and he does so without failure or defeat, accomplishing his purposes in all of creation from the smallest details to the grand purposes of his plan for the whole of the created order.

Daniel 4:34b-35 – ³⁴ Nebuchadnezzar . . . blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom endures from generation to generation. ³⁵ All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but He does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth; and no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, “What have You done?”

Ephesians 1:11 – “ . . . we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will.”

II. Divine Sovereignty Exhibited (Isa 44:24-45:7)

A. God’s Sovereign Control over Nature and Nations (44:24-27)

1. God’s Sovereignty over Nature (44:24, 27)

- a. Creator of heaven and earth (44:24)
- b. Providential Ruler over land and sea (44:27)

2. God’s Sovereignty over Nations (44:25-26)

- a. God causes the declarations of the future by the false prophets to fail (44:25)
- b. God causes the declarations of the future by his prophets to succeed (44:26a)
- c. God causes world events to fulfill his promise to Jerusalem (44:26b)

B. God’s Sovereign Control over Cyrus (44:28-45:4)

1. God names “Cyrus” as his “shepherd,” his “anointed,” and king (44:28, 45:1, 3b, 4)

2. God governs the life and activities of the pagan king Cyrus (44:28-45:4)

- a. God governs the life and development of the one named Cyrus (44:28, 45:1)
- b. God governs the activities and successes of Cyrus as king (44:28-45:3)
- c. God governs the life and activities of Cyrus, though Cyrus does not know God! (45:4-5)
- d. God governs the life and activities of Cyrus for the sake of his people (44:28, 45:4)

C. God's Sovereign Control over the Full "Spectrum" of life, both good and evil (45:5-7)

Isa 45:5-7 – ⁵"I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me; ⁶that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that there is no one besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other, ⁷the One forming light and creating darkness, causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the LORD Who does all these."

1. Assertion of exclusive claim to deity (45:5-6)
2. Divine control of the full spectrum of light and darkness, well-being and calamity (45:7)
 - a. Spectrum of light and darkness, well-being and calamity (cf. Deut 32:39; 1 Sam 2:6-7)
 - b. Strength of terminology especially for God's control of evil—1) there is a weaker and stronger verb used in each couplet, with the stronger verb (*bara*) used for the negative aspects, and 2) "well-being" and "calamity" are the strongest Hebrew words for all that is good (*shalom*) and all that is horrid (*ra*).
 - c. **Key Principle (the twin pillars of divine sovereignty in relation to free and responsible human agency): God fully controls both good and evil yet, God is wholly good and is not evil** in any respect whatsoever.

See **Isa 45:7a**, "the One forming light and *creating darkness*" along with **1 John 1:5b**, "God is light, and in Him there is *no darkness at all*."

See **Isa 45:7b**, "... causing well-being and *creating calamity* [*ra*]" along with **Psalms 5:4**, "For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; *no evil* [*ra*] dwells with You."

D. Other Spectrum Texts

Deut 32:39 – "See now that I, I am He, and there is no god besides Me; it is I who *put to death* and *give life*. I have *wounded* and it is I who *heal*, and there is no one who can deliver from My hand."

1 Sam 2:6-7 – ⁶The LORD *kills* and *makes alive*; He brings down to *Sheol* and *raises up*. ⁷The LORD *makes poor* and *rich*; He *brings low*, and He also *exalts*.

Lam 3:37-38 – ³⁷Who is there who speaks and it comes to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it? ³⁸Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that both *good* and *ill* go forth?

III. Conclusion and Applications

- A. Sovereignty and Suffering
- B. Sovereignty and Supplication
- C. Sovereignty and Salvation