

A graphic with a dark orange background. On the left, there is a white square with a smaller orange square inside it, partially overlapping the white one. To the right of this, the word "SOVEREIGNTY" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

**QUOTES** from “Do You Believe?” by Paul David Tripp

“What does it mean that the Bible teaches that God is sovereign? It means that God alone determines all that will happen and rules the means by which everything will happen.”

“To say God is sovereign is simply to say that God is God and there is no one like him.”

**SCRIPTURE ON GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY**

**Genesis** 8:22

**Numbers** 23:19

**Job** 38:11

**Psalms** 135:6

**Proverbs** 16:33

**Isaiah** 46:10-11; 55:10-11

**Daniel** 3:27; 4:34-35

**Hosea** 1:7

**Matthew** 10:29-31

**John** 19:11

**Acts** 2:23; 4:27-28; 13:48; 15:18; 27:31, 44

**Romans** 4:19-21; 9:11-18 **Ephesians** 1:3-14

**Hebrews** 1:3; 6:17

**James** 1:13

**1 John** 1:5

**TWO ASPECTS OF GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY**

**Decree** – “A decree is a decision or order made by an authority.”

**Providence** – “God is an active participant in his world. He governs, sustains, affects, and controls.”

**WHAT ABOUT US?**

“God rules his world in a way that he does not violate the true significance and validity of secondary agents. What does this mean? It means God establishes what He has ordained without ever reducing us to robots.... He rules his world in such a way that our choices are valid and our actions are important. He sovereign over the ends and the means.”

**SIX WINDOWS ON GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY**

- ***The Israelites in Egypt***

God’s providential power on behalf of his people (Exodus 7-12)

- ***Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar***

God’s sovereignty in the affairs of men, particularly politics and elections (Daniel 4-5)

- ***Jonah***

God’s sovereign rule over his creation (Jonah 1-4)

- **The Sparrows**  
God's fatherly authority and care  
(Matthew 10:29-30)
- **The Conversion of the Gentiles**  
God's sovereignty in our circumstances, including our salvation (Acts 13:13-52)
- **Paul in Athens**  
God's immanent sovereignty in the lives of his beloved  
(Acts 16:16-33)

## **APPLICATION** Discussion Questions

- 1) *If God is sovereign, can any situation actually be described as, "out of control"?*
- 2) *If God is sovereign, what "credit" do we get for our actions, and specifically, our accomplishments? If God is sovereign, what "credit" does he get for our problems, including our suffering? What should our response be in these various circumstances?*

- 3) *Idolatry is the opposite of surrendering to God's sovereignty. In what areas of life might we be tempted to exchange worship and service for the Creator for that of the creation?*
- 4) *There is no question that God's sovereignty is a mystery to our finite human minds. How can we trust God even when we don't understand him? (Hebrews 2:8; Romans 8:28-29; Genesis 1-3)*
- 5) *How should the reality of God's sovereignty impact our prayer lives?*