



## Does the bible really say?

### Part 6: "God is sovereign!"

**Psalm 115:3;** *"Our God is in heaven; He does whatever pleases Him."*

#### 1. One of the **hottest** debated **topics** in Christian theology

- **All** Christians should **agree** that God is sovereign.
- This **foundational** doctrine is clearly stated in the Word of God.
- **What does it mean that God is sovereign?** It means that God has supreme **knowledge, power, & authority** above all others.
- A simpler definition is that God is the **Supreme Ruler** of the universe.
- The disagreement often centers on the **extent** to which He is sovereign.
- **Further sovereignty terminology to understand:**
  - a. **Omniscience**- God is all-**knowing**.
  - b. **Omnipotence**- God is all-**powerful**.
  - c. **Omnipresence**- God is **everywhere**, all at **once**.
- Our God exists outside time, space, & matter. He created all three.
- **Prov. 19:21;** *"Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails."*

#### 2. What about **freewill**?

- To deny the existence of freewill is often called **fatalism**.
- From the very beginning, God offered mankind choices.
- **Gen. 2:16-17;** *"And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.'" Adam had the choice to obey or disobey, so do we.*
- We call disobedience to God's commands sin. The fact that sin exists proves that not all things occur in accordance with God's will, nor are those things caused by God.
- God holds humans accountable for their choices. He allows their decision to disobey Him. He allows things that He doesn't cause.

- Many are concerned about how sovereignty affects salvation.
- We don't stop to consider whether God is influencing the minor decisions of our lives, but we want to know who is in control of our access to eternity.
- **John 6:44**; *"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day."*

### 3. **Nothing can stop God?**

- God's sovereignty means that God has the **power**, **wisdom**, and **authority** to do anything He chooses within Creation.
- Whether or not He chooses to **enact** His will or **exert** that power is a different question.
- **Job 42:1-2**; *"Then Job replied to the LORD; 'I know that You can do all things; no plan of Yours can be thwarted.'"*
- God certainly can intervene in any situation. Sometimes He does so indirectly, & other times he chooses not to.
- **Eph. 1:11**; *"In Him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works everything in conformity with the purpose of His will."*
- **Is. 46:9-10**; *"Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come, I say; My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please."*

### 4. **Human inconsistency & misunderstanding**

- We want God to act when **we** want Him to, & according to **our** will.
- We assume that if God is not purposely **driving** all the events of our lives, then somehow, He is not sovereign. **The ant & the bowl.**
- We assume that if God allows sin, evil, & bad things, then He must be the **source** of those things. If He **permits**, then He is **responsible**.
- We are also tempted to believe that somehow, we can **manipulate** or change God's will. ***Is this true?***
- If that were true, then **we** would be God, and not God.
- If we, by our prayers, by our prayers, or by our goodness, could change God's mind, then we would have more power than the Almighty.
- **Rom. 8:28**; *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose."*
- This verse reminds us that God is in control, & even when we cannot trace His hand, we can trust His heart.
- **A proper view of sovereignty brings freedom to the believer.**

- a. It frees us to **trust** God's **guiding** hand for our lives. If God needs to course correct your life, He has the power & ability.
- b. It removes the need for us to seek **safety** & **security** above obedience to His commands. To be stretched for His Kingdom.
- c. It frees us from the tendency to **overthink** & **freeze** up, worried that we'll make a wrong step.
- d. I should free us from the **anxiety** & **worry** that easily besets us.
- e. It reminds us that what God started in us will be completed by Him.



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