

The God Who Is Sovereign

Introduction

Of the nature of God, His sovereignty is perhaps His most mysterious characteristic. It's not so much a matter of Him being sovereign that we struggle with as much as it is how His sovereignty relates to our lives.

Sovereignty is defined as God's ultimate Lordship and rule over the universe so that the divine will is supreme over all else (McKim).

In Isaiah 46:9-11 God, Himself, reminds Israel of His sovereignty. Notice four observations from the text: God is alone in His supremacy; He knows everything, including the future; He has a divine plan; and whatever He plans will come to pass.

Today's message should be a source of comfort for believers as we discuss God's sovereignty through the example of Jesus (John 14:27-31).

Seeing the Sovereignty of God

- 1. Perhaps the most important element of the sovereignty of God as it relates to our lives is understanding that God has a plan (John 14:27-28).**

On the last night Jesus had with His disciples He reminded them of what He had already told them many times before about the future. Jesus was going to leave them for a little while but He was coming back to them.

For us it is important to realize that nothing happens accidentally to God nor takes Him by surprise.

- 2. Throughout time God has prepared us for what was coming in order that we may believe in Him (John 14:29).**

As in this case they did not understand what He was saying but Jesus was forewarning them about what was going to happen to Him as not to catch them by surprise. He did this many times in the Gospels and throughout the Bible proving that there has always been a plan. Everything is according to God's plan.

"Well, what about sin? Was that God's plan?" you may ask. God knew from the beginning that sin would be the result of free will. He ultimately knows that is going to happen though we have freedom to make our own decision.

3. Though God has the ability to do whatever He wants there are times when He self-limits Himself to fulfill His ultimate plan (John 14:30).

The self-limiting nature of God is yet another mystery of the sovereignty of God. However, at no time does God ever cease to be sovereign.

In this context of this passage both time and the enemy were closing in on Jesus but He was still in control. Jesus allowed Himself to be killed so that we might have life. There is no greater example of God's love than in this one act.

4. Our response to the sovereignty of God is to submit to His will even when we do not understand His plan (John 14:31).

Though we face difficult situations the fact that God has an ultimate plan should be a source of comfort and peace for us instead of fear.

When Jesus told the disciples "Come, let's be going" He was making a statement of faith to them. God's sovereign control does not mean that we stay where we are allowing life to just happen. It means that we move bravely into the future trusting God who works everything out for the good of those who love Him.

Perhaps the biggest question of God's sovereignty is why He allows certain things to happen to us. Part of trusting the Lord means that we recognize that He sees the bigger picture even when we do not.

Conclusion

The subject of God's sovereignty is so vast that many never accept its reality in their lives. Gary Lewis, Administrative Bishop of the South Georgia Church of God recently said, "Until you settle the issue of His sovereignty you will never experience true victory."

Further references: Amos 3:6-7; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Isaiah 55:8-9; Romans 8:28; Mark 2:1-12; Ephesians 1:11; Revelation 4:11; Revelation 19:6.