

Foundations I – 09/22/24

The Attributes of God

Character qualities that uniquely define God

- Each of God's attributes represent the entirety of the Godhead (Father, Son, and Spirit).
- The differences lay in their roles, functions, and actions (1 John 5:12; 1 Cor. 12:3; Gen. 1:2).
- What you know and believe about God inevitably becomes the lens through which you see everything else in life.
- If we are to truly serve, worship, and honor God, we must have an accurate understanding of who God is.

The Sovereignty of God

The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all.

Psalm 103:19

• What it Means

- *Malkūt* – reign, dominion, royal power (Ps. 103:19; 1 Tim. 6:15; Isa. 45:5-6).
- The sovereignty of God may be defined as the exercise of His power.
- “God does as He pleases, only as He pleases, always as He pleases” – A. W. Pink.
- Scripture begins and ends with the Sovereignty of God (Gen. 1:1; Rev. 22:18-19)
- God is sovereign; that is, He is the supreme Lord who rules over all things.

• The Problem of Evil

- God and Satan **do not** co-reign together. Satan **is not** sovereign (Job 1:6-12).
- “I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the Lord, who does all things” (Isaiah 45:7).

- Though God does not do evil, He allows evil. In allowing evil, He establishes and executes perfect justice.
 - A God who never punishes people for their wickedness would not be sovereign but only benevolent.
 - God is sovereign in the exercise of **mercy** (John 3:27; Rom. 9:15)
 - God is sovereign in the exercise of **justice** (Rom. 3:23; Eph. 2:3)
- **God's Eternal Purposes**
 - *Prothesis – plan, decree, setting forth, ordain, will.*
 - **God's purposes describe the steadfast execution of His will.**
 - It is God who brings kingdoms up and tears kingdoms down
 - God rose king Saul to the throne of Israel and brought him down from the same throne.
 - The same God who made David king over Israel punished David as a result of his sin (2 Sam. 11-12).
 - Those who are saved by God are drawn by His sovereign grace (John 6:44-45; Ephesians 1:3-14).
 - God is at the center of salvation, not man (Rom. 9:15)
- **Question**
 1. What comes to your mind when you think of a Sovereign God?

Recommended Books:

1. J. I. Packer, *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books), 2008.
2. A. W. Pink, *The Attributes of God* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books), 1975.
3. A. W. Pink, *The Sovereignty of God* (Blacksburg, VA: Wilder Publications), 2008.
4. A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy* (New York, NY: Harper One), 1961.