

POLITICS

# China's fishing ban in East Sea violates Vietnam's sovereignty: spokesperson

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Pham Thu Hang on April 25 said Vietnam's consistent stance on China's fishing ban in the East Sea, which has been affirmed clearly over the past years.

April 25, 2024 at 06:56:00



## Empowering Haiti: Charting a course for security and sovereignty

**GOD IS \_\_\_\_\_.**

# GOD IS

# God is Sovereign

1. What does it mean?
2. How can it be?
3. What does it mean for us?

**GOD IS \_\_\_\_\_.**

# God is Sovereign: What Does It Mean?

Sovereign = ruler, king, or lord

God's sovereignty is efficacious (effective, successful)

Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

Psalm 115:3

Whatever the LORD pleases, he does,  
in heaven and on earth, in the seas and in all deeps.

Psalm 135:6

**GOD IS \_\_\_\_\_.**

# God is Sovereign: What Does It Mean?

Sovereign = ruler, king, or lord

God's sovereignty is efficacious (effective, successful)

The LORD of hosts has sworn: 'As I have planned, so shall it be,  
and as I have purposed, so shall it stand...'

Isaiah 14:24

...it was not you who sent me here, but God... As for you, you meant evil  
against me, but God meant it for good...

Genesis 45:8; 50:20

**GOD IS \_\_\_\_\_.**

# God is Sovereign: What Does It Mean?

God's sovereignty is universal (applies to all things)

## Natural World

Weather (Psalm 65:9, 135:7)

Food for wild lions and birds (Psalm 104:21, Matthew 6:26)

Makes lilies of the field beautiful (Matthew 6:30)

**GOD IS \_\_\_\_\_.**

# God is Sovereign: What Does It Mean?

God's sovereignty is universal (applies to all things)

Big Events in Human History (Nations, Culture, Rulers)

And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place...

Acts 17:26

He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings...

Daniel 2:21

See also Job 12:23

**GOD IS \_\_\_\_\_.**

# God is Sovereign: What Does It Mean?

God's sovereignty is universal (applies to all things)

## Seemingly Small and Random Things

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.

Matthew 10:29

The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

Proverbs 16:33

**GOD IS \_\_\_\_\_.**



# God is Sovereign: What Does It Mean?

God's sovereignty is universal (applies to all things)

## Individual Lives

The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up.  
The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts.

1 Samuel 2:6-7

Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.'

James 4:15

**GOD IS \_\_\_\_\_.**

# God is Sovereign: What Does It Mean?

God's sovereignty is universal (applies to all things)

## Free Decisions of People

The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.

Proverbs 16:9

The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will...

Proverbs 21:1

**GOD IS \_\_\_\_\_.**

# God is Sovereign: What Does It Mean?

God's sovereignty is universal (applies to all things)

## Our Salvation

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them...

You did not choose me, but I chose you.

John 6:44; 16:16

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will...

Ephesians 1:11

**GOD IS \_\_\_\_\_.**

# God is Sovereign: How Can It Be?

The Challenge of Human Responsibility  
or Free Moral Agency

God's Word teaches both  
God's sovereignty & Human responsibility

"...they're not uneasy neighbors in an endless state of cold war with each other. They are friends and they work together."

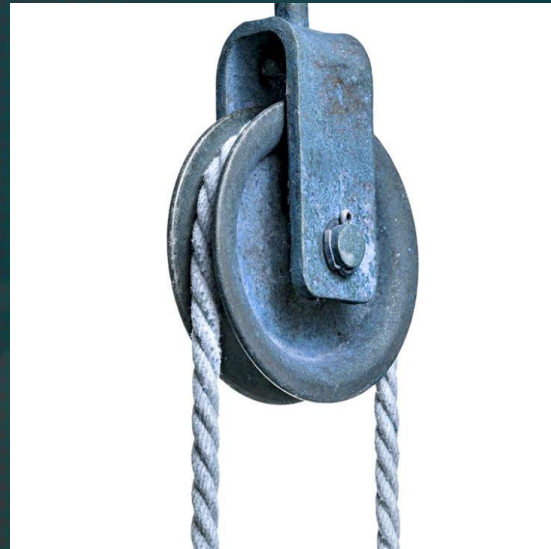
J.I. Packer

**GOD IS \_\_\_\_\_.**

# God is Sovereign: How Can It Be?

The Challenge of Human Responsibility  
or Free Moral Agency

God's Word teaches both  
God's sovereignty & Human responsibility



**GOD IS \_\_\_\_\_.**

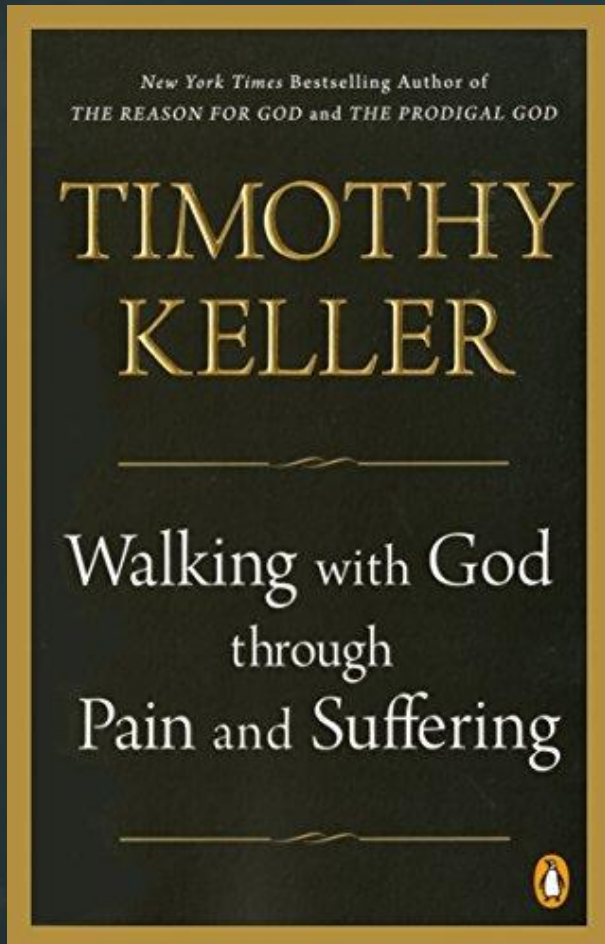
# God is Sovereign: How Can It Be?

## The Challenge of Evil & Suffering

Argument: Because evil and suffering exist, God can either be all powerful or all good, but he cannot be both.

Assumption: If we cannot think of a good reason for suffering then it must not exist.

**GOD IS \_\_\_\_\_.**



# God is Sovereign: How Can It Be?

## The Challenge of Evil & Suffering

### The Suffering of Jesus

...this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

Acts 2:23

**GOD IS \_\_\_\_\_.**

# God is Sovereign: How Can It Be?

## The Challenge of Evil & Suffering

### The Reason for Jesus' Suffering

...he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:5-6

**GOD IS \_\_\_\_\_.**



# God is Sovereign: How Can It Be?

## The Challenge of Evil & Suffering

### The Reason for Jesus' Suffering

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

**GOD IS \_\_\_\_\_.**

# God is Sovereign: How Can It Be?

## The Challenge of Evil & Suffering

### Future Purpose in Our Suffering

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison...

2 Corinthians 4:17

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

**GOD IS \_\_\_\_\_.**

“If God actually provided an explanation of all the reasons why he allows things to happen as they do, it would be too much for our finite brains. Think of little children and their relationship to their parents. Three-year-olds cannot understand most of why their parents allow and disallow what they do. But though they aren’t capable of comprehending their parents’ reasons, they are capable of knowing their parents’ love and therefore are capable of trusting them and living securely. That is what they really need. Now, the difference between God and human beings is infinitely greater than the difference between a thirty-year-old parent and a three-year-old child. So we should not expect to be able to grasp all of God’s purposes, but through the cross and gospel of Jesus Christ, we can know his love. And that is what we need most.”

Timothy Keller

*Walking with God through Pain and Suffering*

**GOD IS \_\_\_\_\_.**

# God is Sovereign: What Does It Mean for Us?

Does NOT Mean We Can Be Passive

Does NOT Mean We Can Be Dismissive

Does NOT Mean We Must Be Stoic

**GOD IS \_\_\_\_\_.**

# God is Sovereign: What Does It Mean for Us?

He is sovereign and we are not!

We can rest in his sovereignty

- In our trials
- In our evangelism
- In big decisions
- In world events

**GOD IS \_\_\_\_\_.**

# God is Sovereign: What Does It Mean for Us?

“If there is one single molecule in this universe running around loose, totally free of God’s sovereignty, then we have no guarantee that a single promise of God will ever be fulfilled.”

R.C. Sproul  
*Chosen by God*

**GOD IS \_\_\_\_\_.**

# God is Sovereign

1. What does it mean?
2. How can it be?
3. What does it mean for us?

**GOD IS \_\_\_\_\_.**

## *The Weaver*

*(a poem shared by Corrie Ten Boom)*

*My life is but a weaving  
Between my God and me.  
I cannot choose the colors  
He weaveth steadily.  
Oft' times He weaveth sorrow;  
And I in foolish pride  
Forget He sees the upper  
And I the underside.  
Not 'til the loom is silent  
And the shuttles cease to fly  
Will God unroll the canvas  
And reveal the reason why.*





*The dark threads are as needful  
In the weaver's skillful hand  
As the threads of gold and silver  
In the pattern He has planned  
He knows, He loves, He cares;  
Nothing this truth can dim.  
He gives the very best to those  
Who leave the choice to Him.*

