





2

Philippians 4:7
7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



3

Sovereignty
The Sovereignty of God means that God is powerful and authoritative to the extent of being able to override all other powers and authorities.



4

Which Is it?

"God has granted you all those who sail with you...it will be exactly as I have been told"

"Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved."



5

Fatalism

Fatalism is a philosophy that all events or actions are subject to fate or destiny. It has an attitude of resignation in the face of future events which are thought to be inevitable. A Christian version of fatalism is that God has determined everything so our good or bad decisions are unimportant



6

Sovereignty and the Agency of Man

God's acts of sovereignty are often accomplished through the agency of man, both righteous and unrighteous. The righteous to their eternal reward and unrighteous to their eternal punishment.



7

Sovereignty of God, Agency of Man

1. Preaching of the gospel
2. Raising as disciples
3. Church (The Elect) where you grow
4. Parents, Birth Nation, Culture...



8

Man Exercises will Given Circumstances

We are all enslaved to do what we esteem most desirable with a given set of circumstances. We are enslaved to do what we want to do most. We are unable to do otherwise provided we are not physically hindered.



9

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.
 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.



10

Proverbs 28:28

28 Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered.



11

Sovereignty and the Agency of Man

- 1. Man is enslaved to do what he thinks is best with any given circumstance**
- 2. God causes circumstances to arise to provide the right motive**
- 3. Man exercises his will to make a decision based on that motive**
- 4. God's purpose is fulfilled and man is held accountable for his decision**



12

Acts 27:9-15

9 Since much time had passed, and the voyage was now dangerous because even the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, 10 saying, "Sirs, I perceive that the voyage will be with injury and much loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives."



13

Acts 27:9-15

11 But the centurion paid more attention to the pilot and to the owner of the ship than to what Paul said.



14

Acts 27:9-15

12 And because the harbor was not suitable to spend the winter in, the majority decided to put out to sea from there, on the chance that somehow they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete, facing both southwest and northwest, and spend the winter there.



15

Acts 27:9-15

13 Now when the south wind blew gently, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, they weighed anchor and sailed along Crete, close to the shore.



16

Acts 27:9-15

14 But soon a tempestuous wind, called the northeaster, struck down from the land.
15 And when the ship was caught and could not face the wind, we gave way to it and were driven along.



17

Sovereignty-Man's Agency: Shipwreck

People	Circumstance
Paul: "Sirs, I perceive that the voyage will be with injury and much loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives." Motive: rescue	Pilot, owner and majority of crew want to set sail because not a good harbor and providentially, a "south wind blew gently" so it seems right to sail. Motive: profit
Centurion "listens to the experts" not God's messenger Motive: Fulfill his mission	Experts vs Prisoner Preacher seems like an easy (yet wrong) decision



18

God Provides the Circumstances


God provides the right circumstances so that man will make decisions that they feel is best for themselves. In the end, those decisions, both the wise and unwise, will fulfill God's purposes and each man will be held accountable for their decisions.



19

Sovereignty-Man's Agency: Shipwreck


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Centurion "listens to the experts" not God's messenger Motive: Fulfill his mission	Experts vs Prisoner Preacher seems like an easy (yet wrong) decision
God Providentially intervenes Motive: Prepare the elect, punish the non-elect	Huge Hurricane propels them toward God's desired destination



20

Acts 27:20


20 When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned.



21

Acts 27:21-25

21 Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul stood up among them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss. 22 Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship.



22

Acts 27:21-25

23 For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, 24 and he said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.' 25 So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told.



23

Sovereignty-Man's Agency: Shipwreck

People	Circumstance
God: Everyone under extreme duress Motive: Paul's faith and status elevated, Everyone else's: owner, pilot and crew status humbled	Over 2 weeks of constant battering by the wind and waves
God: sends an angel with a message of hope and direction. Motive: Encourage, test whether they've learned to listen	Continued battering by the storm



24

Acts 27

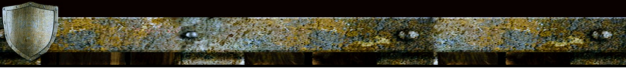
30 And as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, and had lowered the ship's boat into the sea under pretense of laying out anchors from the bow, 31 Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved." 32 Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the ship's boat and let it go.



25

Sovereignty-Man's Agency: Shipwreck

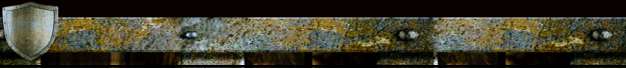
People	Circumstance
Crew: learned to listen to Paul but choose to save themselves by taking the lifeboat Motive: Partial Obedience, self-centered	Paul's message of destruction, storm continued to batter the ship and now nearing land
Centurion: Ordered soldiers to cut the lifeboat into the sea Motive: Fulfill his mission, save himself and the passengers	Paul's warning, Crew acting deceptively to escape with the lifeboat



26

Acts 27:21-25

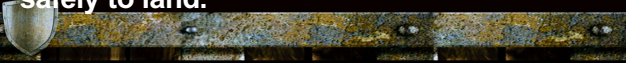
41 But striking a reef, they ran the vessel aground. The bow stuck and remained immovable, and the stern was being broken up by the surf. 42 The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any should swim away and escape.



27

Acts 27:21-25

43 But the centurion, wishing to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and make for the land, 44 and the rest on planks or on pieces of the ship. And so it was that all were brought safely to land.



28

Sovereignty-Man's Agency: Shipwreck

People	Circumstance
Crew: learned to listen to Paul but choose to save themselves by taking the lifeboat Motive: Partial Obedience, self-centered	Paul's message of destruction, storm continued to batter the ship and now nearing land
Centurion: Ordered soldiers to cut the lifeboat into the sea Motive: Save himself and the passengers	Paul's warning, Crew acting deceptively to escape with the life
Centurions: Order soldiers not to kill prisoners Motive: Save Paul, Fear of God	Soldiers want to kill the prisoners to save their own lives if they escape Motive: Partial Obedience, self-centered



29

2 Peter 2:7-10

4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment;



30

2 Peter 2:7-10

5 if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others;



31

2 Peter 2:7-10

6 if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;



32

2 Peter 2:7-10

7 and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless **8** (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)—



33

2 Peter 2:7-10

9 if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment. **10** This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh and despise authority.



34

Philippians 4:7

7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



35



36
