





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

Providence

God's seeing to absolutely everything that needs to be done to bring about his purposes.

Wise and purposeful sovereignty



5

Sovereignty and Man's Responsibility

God is sovereign in that his ultimate purpose will be fulfilled. God has also given mankind the ability to make choices to serve His purpose or their own passions. God creates opportunities for the Elect to work with Him so we develop His character and learn His ways.



6

Metaphor: 5 year old at the Park

How does God's sovereignty work with man's will?



7

Acts 27

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.



8

Acts 27

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.'



9

Acts 27

25 So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. **26** But we must run aground on some island." **27** When the fourteenth night had come, as we were being driven across the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors suspected that they were nearing land.



10

Acts 27

28 So they took a sounding and found twenty fathoms. A little farther on they took a sounding again and found fifteen fathoms. **29** And fearing that we might run on the rocks, they let down four anchors from the stern and prayed for day to come.



11

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,



12

Acts 27

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.



13

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."



14

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.



15

Our Decisions make a Difference

Placed Paul as prisoner on the Ship
Centurion listens to bad advice of Pilot/Owner to sail ignoring Paul's advice
Large Storm called a NorthEaster
Ship crew battle storm for weeks
God sends an angel with promised safety



16

Our Decisions make a Difference

Crew throws tackle overboard
Angel promises Paul deliverance
Paul tells Centurion to stop crew's escape
Centurion saves Paul from execution
God saves everyone from drowning



17

God Performs a Miracle

God performed an astonishing miracle so that all 276 people on board the ship survived a shipwreck in a hurricane. He worked through the good/bad decisions which increased the difficulty of the human experience, but God determined the ultimate outcome of saving the people



18

2 Corinthians 1

8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.



19

Affliction

thlipsis, thlip'-sis; from G2346; pressure (literally or figuratively):—afflicted(-tion), anguish, burdened, persecution, tribulation, trouble.



20

Afflictions

1 Cor 15:32	Fighting "wild beasts" in Ephesus
2 Cor 11:24	Suffering 39 stripes after being brought before a Jewish court
Acts 19:23-41	Riot at Ephesus
Acts 20:19	Persecution shortly before Paul left for Troas



21

Afflictions - 1 Corinthians 11

5	Forty Lashes minus 1 (Jews)
3	Beaten with rods (Rome)
3	Shipwrecked, night and day in the deep
9999	Danger from rivers, robbers, Jews, danger from Gentiles, toil and hardship, sleepless nights, hunger, thirst, cold, exposure



22

2 Corinthians 1

9 Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.



23

Acts 2:22-24

22 “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—



24

Acts 2:22-24

23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.



25

Which Is it?

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



26

Nehemiah 4

1 Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews.



27

Nehemiah 4

2 And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?”



28

Nehemiah 4

3 Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!"



29

Nehemiah 4

4 Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives.



30

Nehemiah 4

5 Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders.



31

Nehemiah 4

6 So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.



32

Nehemiah 4

7 But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry.



33

Nehemiah 4

8 And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. 9 And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.



34

Which is it?

Pray to God [for safety]

Set a Guard

Human Reasoning: If God is really protecting you, you don't have to set a guard?

Biblical Reasoning: God often uses human agency to accomplish His will



35

Nehemiah 4

14 And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes."



36

Nehemiah 4

19 And I said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "The work is great and widely spread, and we are separated on the wall, far from one another. 20 In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us."



37

Philippians 4:7

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



38



39
