



Introduction

"There is no attribute of God more comforting to his children than the doctrine of Divine Sovereignty.¹"

What do we mean when we call God Sovereign?

"*God's dominion is total: he wills as he chooses and carries out all that he wills, and none can stay his hand or thwart his plans.*"²

Where and how do we see God's sovereignty in the scriptures?

- ❖ Psalms 103:19—*The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.*
- ❖ Psalms 115:3—*Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.*
- ❖ Ephesians 1:11—*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,***

1. God rules sovereignly over creation in general

- ❖ Revelation 4:11—*"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."*
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 15:40-41—*There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.*
- ❖ Matthew 5:45—*he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*

Behold your sovereign God!

2. God rules sovereignly over all human beings

- ❖ Proverbs 16:1—*The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord.*

¹ Charles H Spurgeon, Sermon on Matthew 20:15, Olivetree

² Packer, J. I.. Concise Theology: A Guide to Historic Christian Beliefs (p. 33). Tyndale House Pub. Kindle Edition.



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- ❖ Proverbs 16:9—*The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.*
 - ❖ Proverbs 19:21—*Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.*
 - ❖ Proverbs 21:1—*The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will.*
 - ❖ Psalms 33:11—*The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.*
 - ❖ Job 23:13—*For he will complete what he appoints for me, and many such things are in his mind.*

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3. God rules sovereignly over heavenly hosts

- ❖ Daniel 4:35—*all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and **he does according to his will among the host of heaven** and among the inhabitants of the earth; and **none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"***
- ❖ Psalm 91:11—*For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.*
- ❖ Job 1:12—*And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.*
- ❖ Judges 9:23—*And God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the leaders of Shechem, and the leaders of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech,*
- ❖ Jude 1:6—*And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—*

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4. God rules sovereignly over all circumstances

- ❖ Proverbs 16:33—*The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.*
- ❖ Isaiah 45:7—*I form light and create darkness, I make well-being and create calamity, I am the Lord, who does all these things.*



“God, from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will freely, and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass.³”

- ❖ Isaiah 46:9-10—*I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’*

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5. God is sovereign in salvation and reprobation

- ❖ Jonah 2:9—*Salvation belongs to the Lord!”*
- ❖ Ezekiel 11:19—**I will** give them one heart, and a new spirit **I will** put within them. **I will** remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh.
- ❖ Ephesians 1:4-6—*In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.*
- ❖ Romans 9:15-18—*For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.*
- ❖ John 6:44—*No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.*
- ❖ Philippians 2:13—*for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 15:10—*by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.*
- ❖ Proverbs 16:4—*The Lord has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.*

Beloved, Behold your sovereign God!

³ Assembly, Westminster. The Westminster Confession of Faith (with prooftexts and active table of contents) (Kindle Locations 85-86). Kindle Edition



Why is God's sovereignty important to us?

1. It deepens our veneration of the divine character
2. It is the solid foundation of all true religion
3. It repudiates the heresy of salvation by works
 - ❖ Romans 9:16—*it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.*
4. It is deeply humbling to the creature
5. It affords a sense of absolute security
6. It supplies comfort in sorrow
7. It begets a Spirit of sweet resignation
8. It evokes a song of praise
9. It guarantees the final triumph of good over evil
10. It provides a resting place for the heart