

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

- I. Sovereign over our physical bodies. (Matthew 8:1-17, The leper, the Centurion's servant, and Peter's mother)
- II. Sovereign over nature. (Matthew 8:23-27, Calms the Storm)
- III. Sovereign over evil. (Matthew 8:28-34, Casts out the demons.) Also Matthew 4:1-11.
- IV. Sovereign over death. (Luke 7:1-17, Raises the widow's son.)
- V. Sovereign over the lost.

I Timothy 2:4

II Peter 3:9

Ezekiel 33:11

Luke 13:34

Titus 2:11

John 3:16

II Thessalonians 2:12. "And so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness."

John 6:65. "He went on to say 'This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him.'"

Antinomy. The apparent contradiction of two opposing truths.

- VI. Sovereign over the Redeemed.

Romans 8:28-29. "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."

Do we really believe that what we believe is really real? Do we question His care? Do we ask why He has allowed certain situations to occur? Why there are unanswered prayers? Many in the past have had such doubts, including some close followers of God.

Exodus 17:7. "And he called the place Massah and Maribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'"

Isaiah 40:27. "Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God'?"

This pattern of thought begins with disappointment, then disillusionment, then doubt, then depression, and finally denial. We see the reason for this in Asaph, as he describes his story in Psalm 73.

Psalm 73:1-3 "Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked."

What had caused his doubts? His eyes were on others, himself, and circumstances.

What was the cure? He describes this in verse 16, 17a. "When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me till I entered the sanctuary of God." The cure was to turn his eyes on the LORD! Hebrews 12:2. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith," Psalm 25:15. "My eyes are ever on the LORD, for only he will release my feet from the snare."

A) Three attributes of God whereby we can know that we are perfectly secure in His Sovereignty.

1) Omniscient

Psalm 139:1-4. "O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD."

Hebrews 4:13. "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

Isaiah 46:10. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come."

Genesis 16:13. "She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: 'You are the God who sees me,' for she said, 'I have now seen the One who sees me.'" (El Roi)

2) Omnipotent

Psalm 139:3 (LB) "You chart the path ahead of me and tell me where to stop and rest. Every moment, you know where I am."

Psalm 139:5 (LB) "You both precede and follow me, and place your hand of blessing on my head."

Psalm 139:15-16. "My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."

Deuteronomy 31:8. "The LORD himself will go before you. He will be with you. He will not leave you or forget you. Don't be afraid and don't worry."

Genesis 14:18-20. "Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram, saying, 'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.'" (El Elyon)

3) Infinite Love

I John 4:8,16. "God is love."

I John 4:10. "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."

Jeremiah 31:3. "The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: 'I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving kindness.'"

I John 3:1. "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

Romans 8:32. "He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?"

Philippians 2:5-8. "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death--even death on a cross!"

- B) There is perfect communion of all these attributes, perfect knowledge, absolute control and infinite Love. Not just one, or two, but all three continually controlling each moment of our lives. We cannot, under any circumstance, escape the center of His love for us. This love has planned each day of our lives from all eternity past, to perfectly prepare us for the eternity of the future.

J I Packer states the following in Knowing God. "When we are with Him, we will see that nothing was ever permitted that was not necessary for the perfection of our preparation, and nothing was omitted that was necessary for our development."

- C) Demonstration of these attributes.

Job 23:8-10. "But if I go to the east, he is not there; If I go to the west, I do not find him. When he is at work in the north, I do not see him; when he turns to the south, I catch no glimpse of him. But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold."

El Roi, (The God who sees), El Elyon, (The God who controls), El Shaddai, (The God who pours forth Infinite Love)

Isaiah 43:1-7 "But now, this is what the LORD says--he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead. Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give men in exchange for you, and people in exchange for your life. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth--everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."