

The Sovereignty of God

Lesson for Sunday, July 27, 2025

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Today is our last lesson in our study of the attributes of God. Discuss what different people have learned and what they will remember. Try to remind them of the difference an understanding of these attributes should have in our daily lives.
- ⇒ Here are the attributes we have covered. Which one means the most to them?
 - God is love, holy, omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent, all-wise, faithful, gracious, merciful, good and just.
- ⇒ The last attribute we will discuss is the sovereignty of God.
 - What do you think that means? How would you define it?

BIBLE STUDY:

1. What does the Bible say?
 - a. Read these texts to get an idea of what the Bible says about God's sovereignty: 1 Chronicles 29:11-12; Job 42:2; Psalm 115:3; Proverbs 19:21; Daniel 4:35; Isaiah 46:9-10; Matthew 28:18; Acts 17:26; Romans 8:28; 13:1; 1 Timothy 6:15.
 - b. A constant drumbeat throughout the Old & New Testaments is the fact that God is sovereign.
2. What does it mean that God is sovereign?
 - a. Tozer defines God's sovereignty as the attribute by which He rules His entire creation.
 - b. God is "Lord alone," the Creator of heaven and earth, and that in His hand is the soul of every living thing.
 - c. He sits as King forever and is clothed with strength, honor, and majesty.
 - d. The Bible consistently teaches that all authority on earth is delegated by God, and that everything is under His control.
 - e. In a way, God's sovereignty is the natural result that flows from His other attributes. Consider that to be sovereign, God must be:
 - i. Omniscient: Every detail of knowledge is present to Him; otherwise, His sovereign rule would break down at any point of ignorance.
 - ii. Omnipotent: God cannot lack any power, or His sovereign reign would be limited and His kingdom undone.
 - iii. God must be absolutely free: God is not compelled or hindered by any outside force; He does as He pleases always, everywhere, forever.
 - f. Maybe the easiest definition to remember is simply: God rules.
 - i. This is seen throughout the book of Daniel.
 - ii. Daniel 4:17, 25, 32; 5:21; 6:26
3. How does God's sovereignty and human free will coexist?
 - a. A common question is if God is in control of all things, does that interfere with human free will? Are we really free if God is the One in control? An illustration might help.
 - b. A cruise liner ships out from Port Canaveral to the beaches of Mexico.
 - i. Its destination has been determined by proper authorities. Nothing can change it. This is a picture of sovereignty.

- ii. On board the cruise ship are thousands of people. They are not locked in their rooms, and their schedules are up to them as to what they do on the ship.
 - iii. The passengers are completely free to move about as they will. They can eat, sleep, play, lounge on the deck, etc.; but all the while the ship is carrying them steadily to their predetermined port.
 - iv. Both freedom and sovereignty are present on the ship, and they do not contradict each other.
 - v. In the same way, God's sovereign design keeps its steady course over the sea of history.
 - c. Think of it this way: God sovereignly decreed that humans should be free to exercise moral choice. When people choose between good and evil, they are fulfilling God's decree that they should have the freedom to choose, not that God determines every choice.
4. What difference should God's sovereignty make in our lives?
- a. We have tried throughout this series to make our theology (what we know about God) practical. What we know about God should impact how we live for God. Consider these three implications of sovereignty:
 - b. First, we can trust in God's control.
 - i. Knowing that God is sovereign gives believers confidence that nothing is outside His control.
 - ii. All events and circumstances are under His authority – even when we do not understand.
 - c. Second, we can face life with humility that makes accepting difficult times easier.
 - i. Human freedom is real but operates within the boundaries set by God's sovereign will.
 - ii. We are free to choose, but God's purposes will ultimately prevail.
 - iii. When the circumstances of life don't seem to be in our favor, we can still trust the character of God. He is in control. God rules.
 - d. Finally, the reality of God's sovereignty should lead us to reverence for and worship of God.
 - i. Recognizing God's sovereignty leads to awe, worship, and submission to His will.
 - ii. ILL: Casting Crowns song, "I will praise you in the storm."
 - iii. Spurgeon, "When we can't trace His hand, we can trust His heart" (or His sovereignty).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ⇒ What comfort or challenge does the doctrine of God's sovereignty bring to your life?
- ⇒ How can we balance trust in God's control with our responsibility to make good choices?
- ⇒ How does Tozer's illustration of the ocean liner help you understand the relationship between God's sovereignty and human freedom?