

THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD

**A Journey Through the
Old Testament**

Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written for our instruction,
so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope.

The Sovereignty of God

- How Sovereign is God?
- If God is sovereign, what about evil?
- How does God's sovereignty work with human free will?

Isaiah 46

8 Remember this and be brave; take it to heart,
you transgressors!

9 Remember what happened long ago, for I am
God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like Me.

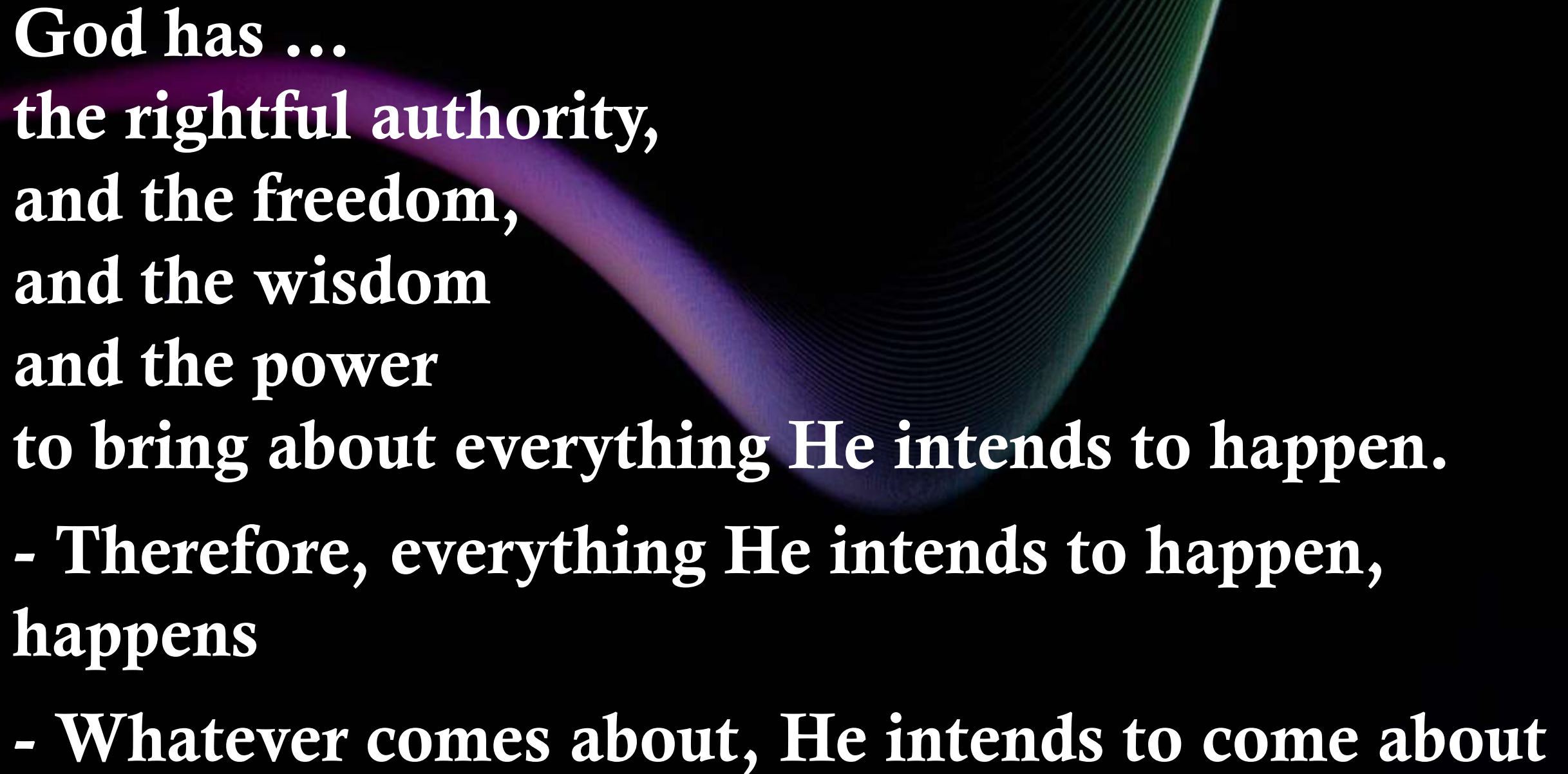
Isaiah 46

**10 I distinguish the end from the beginning,
and ancient times from what is still to come,
saying: 'My purpose will be established, and I
will accomplish all My good pleasure.'**

**11 I summon a bird of prey from the east, a
man for My purpose from a far-off land.**

**Truly I have spoken, truly I will bring it to
pass.**

I have planned it, I will surely do it.



God has ...
the rightful authority,
and the freedom,
and the wisdom
and the power
to bring about everything He intends to happen.

- Therefore, everything He intends to happen,
happens
- Whatever comes about, He intends to come about

The Sovereignty of God

How Sovereign is God?

God's Sovereignty Over the **Natural World**

Psalms 147

**4 He determines the number of the stars;
He calls them each by name.**

**5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
His understanding has no limit.**

**8 who covers the sky with clouds,
who prepares rain for the earth,
who makes grass to grow on the hills.**

God's Sovereignty Over the **Natural World**

Psalms 147

9 He provides food for the animals,
and for the young ravens when they call.
15 He sends forth His command to the
earth; His word runs swiftly.

God's Sovereignty Over the **Natural World**

Psalms 147

16 He spreads the snow like wool;

He scatters the frost like ashes;

17 He casts forth His hail like pebbles.

Who can withstand His icy blast?

18 He sends forth His word and melts them;

**He unleashes His winds, and the waters
flow.**

God's Sovereignty Over the **Natural World**

**Psalm 135:5 For I know that the LORD is great;
our Lord is above all gods.**

**6 The LORD does whatever pleases Him in the
heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their
depths.**

**7 He causes the clouds to rise from the ends of the
earth.**

**He sends lightning with the rain and brings the wind
from His storehouses.**

God's Sovereignty Over the **Natural World**

Jonah –

... the **LORD** **hurled** a violent wind upon the sea

... the **LORD** had **appointed** a great fish to swallow Jonah

... the **LORD** **God** **appointed** a vine, and it grew up to provide shade

... **God** **appointed** a worm that attacked the plant

... **God** **appointed** a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah's head

God's Sovereignty Over the **Natural World**

2 Kings 17: 24 Then the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, ... and settled them in the towns of Samaria to replace the Israelites.

25 Now when the settlers first lived there, they did not worship the LORD,

so **He sent lions** among them, which killed some of them.

26 So they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, “The peoples that you have removed and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the requirements of the God of the land.

Because of this, **He has sent lions** among them, which are indeed killing them off.”

God's Sovereignty Over the **Natural World**

Matthew 10

29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?

Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father.

30 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

31 So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

God's Sovereignty Over the **Natural World**

Proverbs 16

**33 The lot is cast into the lap,
but its every decision is from the LORD**

God's Sovereignty Over the **Human Affairs**

**Daniel 2:21 He changes the times and seasons;
He removes kings and establishes them.**

**Proverbs 21: 1 The king's heart is a waterway in the
hand of the LORD;
He directs it where He pleases.**

**Daniel 4: 35 All the peoples of the earth are counted
as nothing, and He does as He pleases with the army
of heaven and the peoples of the earth.**

God's Sovereignty Over the **Human Affairs**

Psalm 33

**10 The LORD frustrates the plans of the nations;
He thwarts the devices of the peoples.**

**11 The counsel of the LORD stands forever,
the purposes of His heart to all generations.**

**12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people He has chosen as His inheritance!**

**13 The LORD looks down from heaven; He sees all
the sons of men.**

God's Sovereignty Over the **Human Affairs**

Psalm 33

14 From His dwelling place He gazes on all who inhabit the earth.

**15 He shapes the hearts of each;
He considers all their works.**

**16 No king is saved by his vast army;
no warrior is delivered by his great strength.**

God's Sovereignty Over the **Human Affairs**

Proverbs 16

**1 The plans of the heart belong to man,
but the reply of the tongue is from the LORD.**

**4 The LORD has made everything for His
purpose—even the wicked for the day of
disaster.**

**9 A man's heart plans his course,
but the LORD determines his steps.**

God's Sovereignty Over the **Human Affairs**

Proverbs 20

24 A man's steps are from the LORD,
so how can anyone understand his own way?

Proverbs 19

21 Many plans are in a man's heart,
but the purpose of the LORD will prevail.

God's Sovereignty Over the **Human Affairs**

James 4

13 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business, and make a profit.”

14 You do not even know what will happen tomorrow!

What is your life?

You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

God's Sovereignty Over the **Human Affairs**

James 4

15 Instead, you ought to say, “If the Lord is willing, we will live and do this or that.”

16 As it is, you boast in your proud intentions. All such boasting is evil.

God's Sovereignty Over the Life & Death

Deuteronomy 32

**39 See now that I am He;
there is no God besides Me.**

**I bring death and I give life; I wound and I
heal,**

**and there is no one who can deliver from
My hand.**

God's Sovereignty Over the **Life & Death**

**Psalm 139:13 For You formed my inmost being;
You knit me together in my mother's womb.**

**14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Marvelous are Your works, and I know this very well.**

**15 My frame was not hidden from You
when I was made in secret, when I was woven together
in the depths of the earth.**

**16 Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all my days were written in Your book and ordained for me
before one of them came to be.**

God's Sovereignty Over the **Life & Death**

Job 14

1 Man, who is born of woman, is short of days and full of trouble.

**5 Since his days are determined and the number of his months is with You,
and since You have set limits that he cannot exceed,**

God's Sovereignty Over the **Life & Death**

1 Samuel 2

**6 The LORD brings death and gives life;
some He brings down to Sheol, and others He
raises up.**

**7 The LORD sends poverty and wealth;
He humbles and He exalts.**

**8 He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the
needy from the ash heap.**

God's Sovereignty Over the **Life & Death**

Exodus 4

11 And the LORD said to him, “Who gave man his mouth?

Or who makes him mute or deaf, sighted or blind?

Is it not I, the LORD?

12 Now go! I will help you as you speak, and I will teach you what to say.”

The Sovereignty of God

How Sovereign is God?

- **Primary Cause**
 - God
- **Secondary Cause**
 - Satan, calamities, men, animals, etc.

1 Chronicles 10

2 The Philistines followed hard after Saul and his sons, ...

3 When the battle intensified against Saul, the archers overtook him and wounded him critically.

4 ...So Saul took his own sword and fell on it.

14 ...So **the LORD put him to death** and turned the kingdom over to David son of Jesse.



2 Samuel 12

15 ...**the LORD struck the child** that Uriah's wife had borne to David, and he became ill.

18 On the seventh day the child died.

Job 1

18 While he was still speaking, another messenger came and reported: “Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house,

19 when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house.

It collapsed on the young people and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you!”

Job 1

20 Then Job stood up, tore his robe, and shaved his head. He fell to the ground and worshiped,

21 saying:

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb,
and naked I shall return.

The LORD gave, and **the LORD has taken away.**

Blessed be the name of the LORD.”

22 In all this, Job did not sin or charge God with wrongdoing

Job 2

7 So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and infected Job with terrible boils from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head.

9 Then Job's wife said to him, “Do you still retain your integrity? Curse God and die!”

10 “You speak as a foolish woman speaks,” he told her. **“Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?”**

In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

Isaiah 45:5 I am the LORD, and there is no other;
there is no God but Me.

7 I form light and create darkness;
I bring prosperity and create calamity.

I, the LORD, do all these things.

11 Thus says the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and its
Maker:

“How dare you question Me concerning My sons, or
instruct Me about the work of My hands?

12 It is I who made the earth, and created man upon it.
It was My hands that stretched out the heavens, and I
ordained all their host.

Amos 3:6 ...If calamity comes to a city,
has not the LORD caused it?

1 Peter 4

19 So then, those who suffer **according to
God's will** should entrust their souls to
their faithful Creator and continue to do
good.

2 Corinthians 12

7 So to keep me from becoming conceited,
I **was given** a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of
Satan, to torment me.

8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to **take it
away** from me.

9 But He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for
you, for My power is perfected in weakness.”

The Sovereignty of God

If God is sovereign, what about evil?

- **Moral Will**
 - Revealed will
 - Will of command
- **Sovereign Will**
 - Hidden will
 - Will of decree

Exodus 7

1 The LORD answered Moses, ...

2 You are to speak all that I command you, and your brother Aaron must declare it to Pharaoh so that he will let the Israelites go out of his land.

3 But **I will harden Pharaoh's heart**, and though I will multiply My signs and wonders in the land of Egypt,

4 **Pharaoh will not listen to you.**

Genesis 50

19 But Joseph replied, “Do not be afraid. Am I in the place of God?

20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Genesis 50

19 But Joseph replied, “Do not be afraid. Am I in the place of God?

20 As for you, you meant **evil** against me, but God meant **it** for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Psalms 105: 17 **He sent a man** before them—
Joseph, sold as a slave.

Acts 2

23 He was delivered up **by God's set plan and foreknowledge**, and you, by the hands of the lawless, put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross.

Luke 22:22 Indeed, the Son of Man will go **as it has been determined**, but woe to that man who betrays Him.”

Acts 4

**‘Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?
26 The kings of the earth take their stand and the
rulers gather together against the Lord and against His
Anointed One.’**

**27 In fact, in this very city Herod and Pontius Pilate
conspired with the Gentiles and the people of Israel
against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed.**

**28 They carried out what Your hand and will had
decided beforehand would happen.**

Jonathan Edwards

"Evil is an evil thing, and yet it may be a good thing that evil should be in the world...as for instance, it might be an evil thing to crucify Christ, but yet it was a good thing that the crucifying of Christ came to pass.

As men's act, it was evil, but as God ordered it, it was good."

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