

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

Goals:

- To build our faith so that we can trust our lives into the hands of a sovereign God
- To help us be able to read our Bibles more honestly
- To give us some ways to think through the issue of how a sovereign God uses evil for His glory
- To give us permission to not understand it all and yet trust God completely

The Sovereignty of God

How Sovereign is God?

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.**

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 **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,

The Sovereignty of God

How Sovereign is God?

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

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.

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.”

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.

John Piper -

“Now you have got to have a category here from the Bible that says: God can ordain that sin come to pass without himself sinning.

God is not a sinner. God is not evil. God is holy, just, true, and good.

And in the way he governs and runs the world this text says: it may be God’s will that you suffer for doing good, which always involves somebody sinning against you.”

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