

The Attributes of God ~ His Sovereignty

Intro: The Sovereignty of God is at once the grandest and most contentious attribute of God. At issue is the point at which God's Sovereignty and Man's Free Will meet. We will yield to the testimony of Scripture on this issue.

Deuteronomy 4:39

"Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that the LORD, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other.

1Chronicles 29:

- 11 "Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O LORD, and You exalt Yourself as head over all.
- 12 "Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone.

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text. Examine its context.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, and their relationships with one another.

Note and mark

- Where God is God (Deuteronomy 4:39).
- Over whom God is exalted as head. (1 Chron 29:11)
- Over whom God rules. (1 Chron 29:12)

Interpretation:

Deuteronomy 4:39 What does it mean that the LORD is God 'on the earth' and 'no other'? _____

What is the significance of this truth? _____

1 Chronicles 29:11-12 What does it mean that God is both 'head over all' and rules 'over all'? _____

Why does it say that in God's hand is the 'power and might ... to make great'? _____

What is the primary point of this passage by King David? _____

Note:

The book of Deuteronomy comprises Moses' final instructions to the Israelites prior to their entrance into the Promised Land. Understand that they have just spent 40 years wandering the 'wilderness' and living among nations with many gods.

Note:

The God of Scripture is 'hands on'. He is not the aloof deity of the Deists who creates the world and then allows it to follow its own course.

In this hymn of praise, King David acknowledges God's involvement in various situations that befall man. He does so knowing that God has anointed his son Solomon, and not him, to build the Temple.

The Attributes of God ~ His Sovereignty (cont)

Psalm 50

- 10 "For every beast of the forest is Mine,
The cattle on a thousand hills.
11 "I know every bird of the mountains,
And everything that moves in the field is Mine.
12 "If I were hungry I would not tell you,
For the world is Mine, and all it contains.

Ps 103:19

The LORD has established His throne
in the heavens,
And His sovereignty
rules over all.

Ps 135:6

Whatever the LORD pleases,
He does,
In heaven and in earth,
in the seas and in all deeps.

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Note and mark

- What belongs to God. (Psalm 50)
- What rules over all. (Psalm 103:19)
- What the LORD does. (Psalm 135:6)

Interpretation:

Psalm 50: What is the significance about the truths in this passage? _____

Psalm 103:19 What does 'His sovereignty rules over all' mean? _____

What is its significance? _____

Psalm 135:6 What is the point of this verse? _____

Note:

The Psalmist affirms that all things belong to God, acknowledging His right to do with them as He pleases.

Note:

The word sovereignty means supreme authority to rule. Though there may be monarchs and government leaders among us, their authority is only an extension of the One who possesses all authority.

Note:

Would you like it if you were able to realize everything that pleases you? Of course, then you would be like God. He alone does whatever He pleases!

The Attributes of God ~ His Sovereignty (cont)

Psalm 139:16

Your eyes have seen my unformed substance;
And in Your book were all written
The days that were ordained for me,
When as yet there was not one of them.

Isaiah 14:

24 The LORD of hosts has sworn saying,
"Surely, just as I have intended
so it has happened,
and just as I have planned so it will stand,
27 "For the LORD of hosts has planned,
and who can frustrate it?
And as for His stretched-out hand,
who can turn it back?"

Isa 46:10

Declaring the end from the beginning,
And from ancient times
things which have not been done, Saying,
'My purpose will be established,
And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';

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Note and mark

- What was written in God's book. (Psalm 139:16)
- When they were written (Psalm 139:16)
- What has happened and what will stand. (Isaiah 14:)
- What God will accomplish. (Isaiah 46:10)

Interpretation:

Psalm 139:16 What is the significance of all our days being prewritten in

God's book? _____

Isaiah 14: What does this verse teach about God's sovereignty? _____

What is its significance? _____

Isaiah 46:10 What is God saying about His sovereign rule? _____

Note:

God not only knows every day we will ever live, but does so because He has ordained, or predetermined, each one.

Note:

We have all been frustrated by failed plans or unfulfilled intentions. Not so God. The only appropriate comment for God is that everything is going according as He Plan.

Note:

Have you ever wondered how God knows what will happen? It is *not* simply that He knows the future, but that He has *determined* everything in it!

The Attributes of God ~ His Sovereignty (cont)

Acts 4:28

to do whatever Your hand
and Your purpose predestined to occur.

Ephesians 1:11

also we have obtained an inheritance,
having been predestined
according to His purpose
who works all things
after the counsel of His will,

Romans 8:28

And we know that God causes all things
to work together for good
to those who love God,
to those who are called
according to His purpose.

Observation:

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Note and mark

- How God's purpose occurred. (Acts 4:28)
- What God works 'after the counsel of (God's) will'. (Ephesians 1:11)
- What God causes to work together for good. (Romans 8:28)

Interpretation:

Acts 4:28 Read the preceding verse to this one. In light of the context, what does

this verse say about the crucifixion of Christ? _____

Ephesians 1:11 What does this verse say about our salvation? _____

What is its significance? _____

Romans 8:28 What does this verse say about God's sovereignty? _____

What is its significance? _____

Note:

The context of this verse indicates that Christ's crucifixion was not an unintended event out of our Lord's hands, but a divinely choreographed script in which every participant played a part to fulfill God's purpose.

Note:

Long before we were even conceived, God had already planned our salvation. By His mysterious purpose He predestined us to believe in His Son and inherit eternal life! Our salvation did not happen by chance, but was part of our destiny because of God's choice!

Note:

The Believer must never ask, 'Why?', knowing that God sovereignly works all things for our good. The details may be blurred, but not the final outcome ... to become more like His Son!

The Attributes of God ~ His Sovereignty (cont)

Romans 9

- 13 Just as it is written,
"JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED."
- 14 What shall we say then?
There is no injustice with God, is there?
May it never be!
- 15 For He says to Moses,
"I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY,
AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION
ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION."
- 16 So then it does not depend on the man who wills
or the man who runs,
but on God who has mercy.
- 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh,
"FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP,
TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU,
AND THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED
THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH."
- 18 So then He has mercy on whom He desires,
and He hardens whom He desires.
- 19 You will say to me then,
"Why does He still find fault?
For who resists His will?"
- 20 On the contrary, who are you, O man,
who answers back to God?
The thing molded will not say to the molder,
"Why did you make me like this," will it?
- 21 Or does not the potter have a right over the clay,
to make from the same lump
one vessel for honorable use
and another for common use?

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Note and mark

- What God's mercy does not depend on. (verse 16)
- Why God raised up Pharaoh. (verse 17)
- On whom God shows mercy or hardens. (verse 18)
- What the potter (God) has over the clay. (verse 21)

Interpretation:

verses 13-18 What does this passage teach about God's sovereignty? _____

What does this passage teach about man's free will? _____

verse 19 What is the answer to the second question? _____

What do these questions imply? _____

verses 20-21 How would you explain the response to the questions in verse 19? _____

Define God's Sovereignty: _____

Note:

In the course of three incredible chapters (9-11), Paul boldly addresses the issue of God's Sovereignty and Man's Free Will as they relate to the Believer's salvation. His conclusion? Both are involved!

In his great treatise to God's salvation, Paul weaves both truths through the divine plan. Our free will secures our salvation, but God's Sovereignty assures its security. The Sovereignty of God removes man's works from the equation and places our salvation completely in the 'hands' of God! Can you think of a better place for it?

Application Principles: In light of what you have learned, what **Truths** or **Principles** are taught in these texts about *God's Sovereignty*?

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

Application Practicals: In light of these Truths & Principles, what will you **do** to apply them to your life **today**?

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

Write out a verse from above that you would like to memorize and/or meditate upon:

From what you learned, how is God different from His creation and/or creatures?

Final Note:

Scripture reveals God as the Supreme Ruler and Authority of all that occurs throughout His Realm and Creation. Far from disturbing, this doctrine is comforting, for it removes our destinies from the hands of sinful men and places them under the control of the Eternal and Loving God! For those who know God, His Sovereignty is a source of Peace and Protection from Fear, knowing that the God, who is Love, is also always in control.

*God is Sovereign
Accomplishing All That Pleases Him!*