



Cherreguine Bible Doctrine Ministries

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THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

The sovereignty of God refers to His absolute right to do all things according to His own good pleasure (Daniel 4:25, 35; Romans 9:15-23; 1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 4:11). The sovereignty of God is the biblical teaching that God is King, supreme ruler, and lawgiver of the entire universe.

God "has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all" (Psalm 103:19). As the "Most High," God is "sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone He wishes" (Daniel 4:17, 25, 34; 5:21; 7:14).

Israel's King David acknowledges "the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor" of God "for everything in heaven and earth" is His (I Chronicles 29:11).

This prayerful acknowledgment of God's sovereignty is echoed in the conclusion of the disciples' prayer: "for yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever" (Matthew 6:13). God is indeed the "only Ruler, the King of Kings and Lord of lords" (I Timothy 6:15; and Revelation 19:16).

The sovereignty of God thus expresses the very nature of God as all-powerful and omnipotent, able to accomplish His good pleasure, carry out His decreed will, and keep His promises.¹

Several divine names express God's sovereignty. He is called "God Most High" (Genesis 14:18-20), "God almighty" (17:1; Exodus 6:2), "Sovereign Lord" (Gen. 15:2), and "Lord God Almighty" (Revelation 1:8). "Sovereign Lord" or "Master" in Luke 2:29; Acts 4:24; 2 Peter 2:1; Jude 4; and Revelation 6:10.²

God's sovereignty is expressed in the comprehensive plan or decree for human history; He "works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will" (Ephesians 1:11). His sovereignty is exercised and displayed in history in the work of creation, providence, and redemption. The "Sovereign Lord" has "made the heavens and the earth" and "nothing is too hard" for Him (Jeremiah 32:17-23), indeed, "all things are possible with God" (Mark 10:27; 14:35; Luke 1:37).

The sovereignty God upholds and governs the created world in His providence. He rules the destiny of men and nations (Acts 14:15-17; 17:24-28). Adam's fall occurred within the context of His arrangement (Genesis 2:16-17) as did Christ's crucifixion (Acts 2:23; 4:27-28) and all other events- His providential rule is all-comprehensive- "I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things (Isaiah 45:7; Ephesians 1:11).

¹Book 2, The Sovereignty of God, pages 4-5

² Book 2, pages 35-50

The gracious work of redemption also manifests God's sovereignty. He promises, covenants, and works redemptive history. The Messiah is Himself "Mighty God" (Isaiah 9:6-7), "the Son of the Most High" whose "kingdom will never end" (Luke 1:33).