

The Sovereignty of God

- Foundation doctrine of Christianity
- The sovereignty of God is his absolute rain
- It is his undisputable right of him to govern all he has made
- Divine sovereignty is his free exercise of his throne rights
- God is God and that God that is, is a God that reigns
- The sovereignty of God is what separates the men from the boys.
- His love, grace, mercy and wrath is sovereign.
- C. H. Spurgeon: There is no attribute more comforting to His children than that of God's sovereignty.
- A. W. Pink: God always does as he pleases, when he pleases, where he pleases, with whom he pleases; this is the godness of God.
- R. C. Sproul: The sovereignty of God is His favorite doctrine and it would be your favorite doctrine if you were God and you were sovereign.

1. The declaration

- The bible does not hide His sovereignty
 - You need to go to a liberal church for this to be hidden
 - Or a non-bible teaching church
 - Or a feeling driven church
 - Or hyper emotional church
- The sovereignty of God is not hard to understand, it's hard to swallow
- The Word sovereignty in the English dictionary:
 - Above, Chief, Greatest
 - Supreme, in rank, power, authority
 - Holding the position of ruler
 - Independent of all others
- God and God alone reigns
 - Not God and man
 - Not by democracy
 - Not by a majority vote, but by the vote of one!
- God is not asleep he is reigning every single day
 - It is not that God once reigned back in the day
 - He reigns in "good" and in "bad" moments
 - He reigns in life and death
 - He is not passively and idle waiting for the right moment
 - There are no boundaries (see verses)
- He reigns over
 - Nations
 - Nature
 - Events
 - Circumstances
 - Over good and evil people
 - Over human minds, wills and destinies

Scripture

(Psa 103:19 ESV) The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

(Psa 93:1 ESV) The LORD reigns; he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed; he has put on strength as his belt. Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.

(Psa 97:1 ESV) The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!

(Psa 99:1 ESV) The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

(Psa 115:3 ESV) Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

2. The decree

- It is God, that from eternity past has had a plan for all that there is and all that comes to pass

(Eph 1:11 ESV) In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,

Let us go to eternity past before God created anything, before God even created a throne room in which he would dwell, before there were angels, before there was the air, before there was the earth, the sun and the planets, only God.

I. Counsel

- Greek word βουλή – divine deliberation, divine counsel session, an inter-Trinitarian consultation
- Before there was his divine purpose, predestination or will, there was his divine counsel
- In this counsel God considered every single aspect of creation
- God could have created green skies, 100 earths, or no earth
- Out of God's divine counsel, his divine deliberation came, God's will

II. Will

- Greek word θελημα – divine decision, a choice was made
- This choice was all inclusive of everything that will come to pass (all things)
- This will was determined like it says in verse 4 before the foundation of the World
 - This included those whom he chose to save in eternity past
 - Including those who he passed over and left to go their own way
 - All the means by which his elect would hear the gospel
 - Including which generation they should be born
 - This included their parents, neighbors .. everything
 - God prescribed the entirety of it
- Out of his Will came his purpose

III. Purpose

- Greek word προθεσες - divine determination, synonym – resolved
- God, once he determined his will in eternity past, he purposed it and when he purposes something there is no turning back
- God only has plan A
- Then he predestined

About God's Will

It is divine, it is God's will

It is eternal, determined before time began

It is singular, it is one plan with one purpose

It is all inclusive, the word all things indicate that it involves everything that comes to pass

It is irrevocable, it is never altered or changed, there is no plan B

It is multifaceted, he has different relationships with different aspects, some things God causes to happen, other things he allows to happen but all things God controls

It is God glorifying; all these things have the glory of God in its highest end

IV. Predestination

- Greek word προοριζω – you can almost hear the English word horizon; the analogy would be to see the horizon before arriving there, it is determined before the journey begins – predestination -> the destination is pre-determined
- He set the plan in irrevocable concrete, it cannot be changed or altered! It is signed, sealed and delivered!

This is the decree; God does not make things up as he goes along.

(Act 2:23 ESV) this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

God is the architect of human history. Not only in the macro but also in the micro. Not only in the big events but in every small event, that in one way or another effects the big event. There is an old saying:

*For want of a nail the shoe was lost.
For want of a shoe the horse was lost.
For want of a horse the rider was lost.
For want of a rider the message was lost.
For want of a message the battle was lost.
For want of a battle the kingdom was lost.
And all for the want of a horseshoe nail.*

You can trace it back to the smallest detail, this is how it is with the decree of God.

3. The dimensions

- Three dimensions in which God's sovereignty is displayed
 - His creation
 - History and providence
 - Salvation

God is sovereign in creation

- Everything that came and comes into existence is out of God's will and sovereignty
 - for was there that resisted God?
- Who would ever doubt the sovereignty in creation?

Scripture

(Gen 1:1 ESV) In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

(Psa 33:6-8 ESV) By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!

God is sovereign in history and providence

- The sovereign will has written the script of all that should occur on this earth

(Isa 46:8-11 ESV)

"Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,' calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.

- There is no one like God!
- God says, what is done, before it is done.
- No random events, nor "good or bad luck"
- Every thread of the tapestry of human history has been woven by God
- (Pro 21:1) Illustration of watering in ancient times. The farmer having full control over the stream of water, directing it wherever he needed it in his field
- Man remaining responsible for any decision he makes, yet no man's heart-action is independent from God

God is sovereign in Salvation

(Ephesians 1:4-5 ESV)

*even as **he chose us** in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,*

Who?	God and God alone, not we
What?	He picked out of many, He chose
Whom?	He picked those who were dead in trespasses, the chosen ones, the elected
Where?	In Christ Jesus
When?	Before creation, before there was time
Why?	So we might be changed into the image of His son
How?	In his love and purpose of his will

Scripture

(Psa 33:10-11 ESV) The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.

(Rom 8:28 ESV) And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

(Pro 16:9 ESV) The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.

(Pro 16:33 ESV) The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

(Pro 19:21 ESV) Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.

(Pro 20:24 ESV) A man's steps are from the LORD; how then can man understand his way?

(Pro 21:1 ESV) The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.

(Rev 17:17 ESV) for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.

C. H. Spurgeon, God's sovereignty

There is no attribute more comforting to His children, than that of God's sovereignty. Under the most adverse circumstances, in the most severe trials--they believe that sovereignty has ordained their afflictions, that sovereignty overrules them, and that sovereignty will sanctify them all. There is nothing for which the children of God ought more earnestly to contend, than the doctrine of their Master over all creation--the kingship of God over all the works of His own hands--the throne of God and His right to sit upon that throne.

On the other hand, there is no doctrine more hated by worldlings, no truth of which they have made such a football--as the great, stupendous, but yet most certain doctrine, of the sovereignty of the infinite Jehovah. Men will allow God to be everywhere, except on His throne. They will allow Him to be in His workshop to fashion worlds and make stars. They will allow Him to be in His almonry to dispense His alms and bestow His bounties. They will allow Him to sustain the earth and bear up the pillars thereof, or light the lamps of heaven, or rule the waves of the ever-moving ocean; but when God ascends His throne--then His creatures gnash their teeth!

We proclaim an enthroned God, and His right to do as He wills with His own, to dispose of His creatures as He thinks well, without consulting them in the matter. Then it is, that we are hissed and execrated; and then it is, that men turn a deaf ear to us--for God on His throne--is not the God they love. But it is God upon the throne that we love to preach. It is God upon His throne, whom we trust!

Ultimately there is only one who was free will, it is God.

Steven Lawson, The Attributes of God, His Sovereignty

Theosenlogos.wordpress.com