



❖ INTRODUCTION

- Piper: Many are zealous to be God centered as long as God is man centered
- We don't mind God being in control of everything as long as it fits with how we think things should be.
- We don't mind celebrating the sovereignty of God as long as He doesn't interfere with how we think things should go.
- Possibly the most debated and easily misunderstood and misapplied of all the attributes of God.

❖ DEFINITION & CLARIFICATION

1. God alone is the autonomous, free, independent ruler of all creation, exercising absolute CONTROL and DIRECTION over all creation.

- autonomous: self-governing
- free: ability to act without external restraint
- independent ruler: without obligation to any other person or ruler.
- absolute control and direction: there is nothing outside God's control and direction.
- all creation: all existence, past, present & future, in heaven and on earth.

Psalm 135:5-6

For I know that the LORD is great And that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps.

Daniel 4:35

All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?"

Psalm 103:19

The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.

1 Chronicles 29:10-13

So David blessed the LORD in the sight of all the assembly; and David said, "Blessed are You, O LORD God of Israel our father, forever and ever. "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. "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. "Now therefore, our God, we thank You, and praise Your glorious name.

2. God acts according to the GOOD pleasure of His will and is necessarily influenced by nothing or no one.

Psalm 135:5-6

For I know that the LORD is great And that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps.

Philippians 2:12-13

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

❖ THE EXTENT OF GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

1. God is sovereign over NATURE.

Matthew 6:26-30

"Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? "And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? "And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these.

2. God is sovereign over HUMANITY

Daniel 2:20-21

Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.

3. God is sovereign over the events of HISTORY.

Acts 17:26

... and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation.

SURRENDER TO SOVEREIGNTY

Isaiah 46

❖ The Burden of Idolatry v. 1-2

- Idolatry is an attempt to find answers for life's challenges outside of GOD.
- Idolatry is an attempt to find explanations and solutions to life's challenges in a way that keeps ME in control.
- God is sovereign over everything all the time. We can either accept His sovereign plan and submit to Him, or we can resist and run to other solutions (idols).
- Even in our rejection, we are still subject to God's sovereign control.
- In the end, idols are a burden to be cared for and offer no help in understanding or solving life's questions and challenges.

❖ The Sovereign Care of God v. 3-4

- God created Israel according to His sovereign purpose and PLAN. He carefully nurtured her development through the revelation of Himself and through discipline and He will continue to her old age.
- The true understanding of life and the true help in living life is only found in the sovereign God of creation. It is found in discovering His sovereign plan for His-story in which I merely play a part under His DIRECTION.

❖ The Holy God vs. Helpless Idols v. 5-7

- God is God ALONE! There cannot be more than one true God. By definition, God is over all!
- Idols are only a burden to carry. They cannot move. They cannot give counsel. They cannot save from trouble. They are HOPELESS and helpless.

- Those who turn to idols will also be hopeless and HELPLESS!

Those who make them will become like them, Everyone who trusts in them.
Psalm 115:8

❖ God ALONE is Sovereign. v. 8-11

- God alone is God, sovereignly and purposefully planning and controlling His-story as it pleases Him.
- God PLANS and God works His plan as He pleases. History is not hap hazzard.
- God declares the details of His plan and even the NAMES of those He will raise up in the future for His purposes.

Isaiah 45:1

This is what the LORD says to Cyrus, his anointed one, whose right hand he will empower. Before him, mighty kings will be paralyzed with fear. Their fortress gates will be opened, never again to shut against him.

- Prophecy is not God SEEING in advance what will happen and then declaring it. It is God revealing to man what He has DETERMINED will take place and will orchestrate to take place in the future.
- History is not being made, it is being PLAYED out.

❖ God Holds Man Accountable for Submitting to His Sovereignty v. 12-13

- God calls on Israel to listen, to respond to Him as Sovereign God.
- While God is sovereignly orchestrating every detail of His-story, He calls man to account for his choices and expects man to choose to SUBMIT to His sovereignty.

❖ God Grants Salvation According to His Sovereign Plan v. 12-13

- God will save Israel from captivity and from their sinfulness for the sake of His NAME and GLORY.
- Salvation is not based on merit or ultimately for the sake of Israel (or us) but is completely an act of God's sovereign GRACE.

Ezekiel 36: 22-32

God alone is the autonomous, free, independent ruler of all creation, exercising absolute control and direction over all creation.

PRAYER OF RESPONSE & COMMITMENT

Sovereign God,

Help me to see you as you truly are: Sovereign God of the universe!

Help me to see and to believe that you have all things under control.

When I lose my vision and I begin to look at man, or nature or other circumstances,
help me to look to you and to trust in your sovereignty.

I choose to **SUBMIT** to you and your sovereign right to plan and to direct creation
for your good pleasure and **GLORY**.