

Attributes of God

(Sovereignty)

The sovereignty of God means that as ruler of the Universe, God is free and has the right to do whatever He wants. He is not bound or limited by His created beings. Further, He is in complete control over everything that happens here on Earth. God's will is the final cause of all things. Sovereignty in the Bible is often expressed in the language of kingship: God rules and reigns over the entire Universe. He cannot be opposed. He is Lord of heaven and earth. He is enthroned, and his throne is a symbol of his sovereignty. God's will is supreme.

The Sovereignty of God. What do we mean by this expression? We mean the supremacy of God, the kingship of God, the godhood of God. To say that God is Sovereign is to declare that God is God. To say that God is Sovereign is to declare that He is the Most High, doing according to His will in the army of Heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth, so that none can stay His hand or say unto Him what doest Thou? (Dan 4: 35). To say that God is Sovereign is to declare that He is the Almighty, the Possessor of all power in Heaven and earth, so that none can defeat His counsels, thwart His purpose, or resist His will (Psa. 115:3). To say that God is Sovereign is to declare that He is "The Governor among the nations" (Psa. 22:28), setting up kingdoms, overthrowing empires, and determining the course of dynasties as pleaseth Him best. To say that God is Sovereign is to declare that He is the "Only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords" (1 Tim. 6:15). Such is the God of the Bible. -A. W Pink

Westminster confession of faith (3.1) God from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely, and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass yet so, as thereby neither is God the author of sin nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures; nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established

God is sovereign over:

1.) Nothingness.

- i. There was a time where there was nothing other than God. There has never been a time where there was absolutely nothing, because out of nothing, nothing comes (Ex Nihilo Nihil fit). There has never been a time when God was not (aseity). But there was a time that there was nothing outside of God (no universe, angelic being, no stars, moons, sun, etc).
- ii. God demonstrated His sovereignty over the nothingness with creation. (Genesis 1)

2.) Creation/nature

- i. He is sovereign over the universe and planets (sun, moon, stars, the ground, rain, wind etc)
 - a. (Numb 16:31-32) The ground opens up to swallow people, then closes
 - b. (Joshua 10:12-15) The sun stands still for about a whole day
 - c. (Isaiah 38:1-8) The sun goes back 10 steps
 - d. (Job 37-41) Gods sovereignty over creatures and nature
 - e. (Psalm 104:19) God is sovereign over the moon and sun
 - f. (Psalm 135:7-8) Sovereign over vapors, lightning, and wind
 - g. (Job 37) Sovereign over weather and storms
 - h. (Isaiah 45:5-7) Sovereign over natural disasters
 - i. (Mark 4:30-34) Sovereign over the wind and waves
- ii. He is sovereign over all animals
 - a. (1 Samuel 6)- Cows
 - b. (Exodus 8-9:7) Animals during the plagues (frogs, insects, cattle)
 - c. (Daniel 6) Daniel and the lions den
 - d. (Numbers 22:22-41) Balam's donkey
 - e. (1 Kings 17:1-6) Ravens feed Elijah
 - f. (2 Kings 2:23-24) Female bears
 - g. (Jonah 1:15-17) Great fish
 - h. (Matt 17:24-27) Fish and the tribute money

3.) Human affairs/History

Phil 2:13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

Isaiah 48:3 "I declared the former things long ago And they went forth from My mouth, and I proclaimed them. Suddenly I acted, and they came to pass.

Isaiah 46:9-11 "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; *I am* God, and there is no one like Me, 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. Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned *it*, *surely* I will do it.

Isaiah 37:26 "Have you not heard? Long ago I did it, From ancient times I planned it. Now I have brought it to pass, That you should turn fortified cities into ruinous heaps.

Isaiah 43:13 "Even from eternity I am He, And there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?"

Isaiah 14:26-27 This is the plan devised against the whole earth; and this is the hand that is stretched out against all the nations. 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?"

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,

Psalms 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.

Job 14:5 "Since his days are determined, The number of his months is with You; And his limits You have set so that he cannot pass.

Ephesians 3:10-11 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly *places*. ¹¹ *This was* in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,

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

Proverbs 16:9 The mind of man plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps.

Proverbs 16:33 The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the Lord.

Proverbs 19:21 Many plans are in a man's heart, But the counsel of the Lord will stand.

Proverbs 20:24 Man's steps are *ordained* by the Lord, How then can man understand his way?

Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is *like* channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Daniel 2:21 "It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men And knowledge to men of understanding.

Job 42:2 "I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.

Psalms 33:9-11 For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. ¹⁰ The Lord nullifies the counsel of the nations; He frustrates the plans of the peoples. ¹¹ The counsel of the Lord stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation.

Acts 2:23 this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death.

Acts 4:27-28 For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.

Psalms 115:3 But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.

Psalms 135:5-13 For I know that the Lord is great And that our Lord is above all gods. ⁶ Whatever the Lord pleases, He does, In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps. ⁷ ^[a] He causes the ^[b] vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; Who makes lightnings for the rain, Who brings forth the wind from His treasures. ⁸ ^[c] He smote the firstborn of Egypt ^[d] Both of man and beast. ⁹ ^[e] He sent signs and wonders into your midst, O Egypt, Upon Pharaoh and all his servants. ¹⁰ ^[f] He smote many nations And slew mighty kings, ¹¹ Sihon, king of the Amorites, And Og, king of Bashan, And all the kingdoms of Canaan; ¹² And He gave their land as a heritage, A heritage to Israel His people. ¹³ Your name, O Lord, is everlasting, Your ^[g] remembrance, O Lord, ^[h] throughout all generations.

Historical accounts:

- i. **Isaiah 44:28, Ezra 1:1-4** (Cyrus)
- ii. **Isaiah 45:7** (He creates light and darkness, well-being and calamity- speaking of Cyrus)
- iii. **John 19:10-11** (Pilate was told he has no power except that which was given to Him)
- iv. **Genesis 50:20, Isaiah 10:1-12 and Isaiah 14:24-27, Acts 2:23, Acts 4:25-28**
 - a. **Compatibilism, God's sovereignty and man's responsibility.**

4.) Over salvation

- i. Ephesians 1:1-11, Ephesians 2:1-10
- ii. Romans 8:29-39, Romans 9: 10-23
- iii. John 3:27, John 6:37-40, 44, John 8:42-47, John 10, John 17:1-11, 24
- iv. Phil 1:29
- v. Acts 13:48
- vi. Col 3:12
- vii. 1 Thess 1:4
- viii. 2 Thess 2:13-14
- ix. 2 Tim 1:9, 2 Tim 2:10
- x. Titus 1:1-2, Titus 3:5
- xi. Heb 9:11-15
- xii. James 1:18
- xiii. 1 Peter 1:1-2, 1 Peter 2:7-9, 2 Peter 1:10
- xiv. Revelation 17:14
- xv. Matt 22:14

- To say that in our nature of sin, we can come to God or can choose God violates the doctrine of total depravity and scripture as stated in **Romans 3:10-18, Romans 8:6-8**, and **John 6:65**
- To say that God's foreknowledge was to look down the course of history and see those who would choose Him is not an argument. If God were to look ahead in time what would He see? He would see human being in total depravity, dead in sin, enemies of God, and unable to seek, choose, or come to God in that nature. No person would choose Him and no one would be in Heaven if God is not sovereign over salvation.
- Either God or man is sovereign in salvation
- We as fallen creatures who are unable to come to Christ, seek Christ, or save ourselves should rejoice in the fact that God is sovereign over salvation.
 - *"Salvation is received from God, not achieved by man."* A. W Tozer
 - *"If 99.99% of salvation was God and .01% was left to us, we would all be damned."* Paul Washer.
 - God's sovereignty is what allows us to rest our head down at night in peace and comfort in the middle of the chaos and troubles of this world! God is ruling and reigning over all and this is immutable!
 - **Psalm 103:19** The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over all.
 - If there is one maverick molecule in this universe, then God is not sovereign. If God is not sovereign, He is not God.
 - **1 Timothy 6:15-16** which He will ^[U]bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of ^[K]kings and Lord of ^[L]lords, ¹⁶ who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him *be* honor and eternal dominion! Amen.
 - **Romans 11:36** For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory ^[G]forever. Amen.