

God's Sovereignty

Isaiah 14:24–27 (ESV)

²⁴The LORD of hosts has sworn: "As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand,

²⁵that I will break the Assyrian in my land, and on my mountains trample him underfoot; and his yoke shall depart from them, and his burden from their shoulder."

²⁶This is the purpose that is purposed concerning the whole earth, and this is the hand that is stretched out over all the nations.

²⁷For the LORD of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back?

This passage is a prophetic declaration of the fall of Assyria who was the formidable foe against the people of God. The Assyrian was going to be used by God as a rod of correction against His people as a result of their egregious rebellion and defiance against God's will. God, who is sovereign, has determined that the oppressive reign and rule of the Assyrian will come to an end (Isaiah 37). Although the Assyrians were used as the chastening and corrective rod of God in one instance they are now being vanquished of their control and authority as a result of God's sovereignty, which denotes His absolute control.

The sovereignty of God is the preeminence and supremacy of God's absolute and final authority. To say that God is sovereign speaks of how His purpose or plan can not be thwart or prevented by any opposing force or power. God does and fulfills whatever He purposes and plans. There is nowhere in the Bible where God is presented as semi-sovereign deity. God is always and, in all things, sovereign.

Psalm 115:3 (ESV)

³Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

Daniel 4:35 (ESV)

³⁵all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"

Ephesians 1:11 (ESV)

¹¹In 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,

Proverbs 16:9 (ESV)

⁹The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.

Proverbs 16:33 (ESV)

³³The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

Sovereign over the sparrows

Matthew 10:29–31 (ESV)

²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.

³⁰But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.

³¹Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Sovereign over Creation When Under control

Psalm 104:10–19 (ESV)

¹⁰You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills;

¹¹they give drink to every beast of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

¹²Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell; they sing among the branches.

¹³From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

¹⁴You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth

¹⁵and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man's heart.

¹⁶The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

¹⁷In them the birds build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees.

¹⁸The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the rock badgers.

¹⁹He made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting.

Sovereign over Creation in Chaos

Psalm 29:3–11 (ESV)

³The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters.

⁴The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

⁷The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in his temple all cry,
“Glory!”

¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

¹¹May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Amos 4:6–13 (ESV)

⁶“I gave you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and lack of bread in all your places, yet you did not return to me,” declares the LORD.

⁷“I also withheld the rain from you when there were yet three months to the harvest; I would send rain on one city, and send no rain on another city; one field would have rain, and the field on which it did not rain would wither;

⁸so two or three cities would wander to another city to drink water, and would not be satisfied; yet you did not return to me,” declares the LORD.

⁹“I struck you with blight and mildew; your many gardens and your vineyards, your fig trees and your olive trees the locust devoured; yet you did not return to me,” declares the LORD.

¹⁰“I sent among you a pestilence after the manner of Egypt; I killed your young men with the sword, and carried away your horses, and I made the stench of your camp go up into your nostrils; yet you did not return to me,” declares the LORD.

¹¹“I overthrew some of you, as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were as a brand plucked out of the burning; yet you did not return to me,” declares the LORD.

¹²“Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel; because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel!”

¹³For behold, he who forms the mountains and creates the wind, and declares to man what is his thought, who makes the morning darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth— the LORD, the God of hosts, is his name!

Sovereign Over Satan

Job 1:8–12 (ESV)

⁸And the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?”

⁹Then Satan answered the LORD and said, “Does Job fear God for no reason?”

¹⁰Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

¹¹But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.”

¹²And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.” So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

Sovereign over Secrets

Deuteronomy 29:29 (ESV)

²⁹“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

The Sovereign Purpose of God

Romans 8:28–30 (ESV)

²⁸And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Sovereign over our Unknown Days

Psalms 139:16–17 (ESV)

¹⁶Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

¹⁷How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

(Illustration : Joseph: Gen.37