

The Sovereignty of God

- God owns everything
- God is the *ruler* of everything and has the *right* to rule
- God defines what is right and wrong
- *Job 41:11* Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm:/ “...Who has a claim against me that I must pay?/ Everything under heaven belongs to me.” (NIV)
- *Psalms 103:19* The LORD has established his throne in heaven,/ and his kingdom rules over all. (NIV)
- *Deuteronomy 4:39-40* Today realize and carefully consider that the LORD is God in heaven above and on earth below—there is no other! Keep his statutes and commandments that I am setting forth today so that it may go well with you and your descendants and that you may enjoy longevity on the land that the Lord your God is about to give you as a permanent possession. (NET)
- *2 Kings 19:15* And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD: “O LORD, God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.” (NIV)
- *1 Chronicles 29:10-13* “O LORD God of our father Israel, you deserve praise forevermore! O LORD, you are great, mighty, majestic, magnificent, glorious, and sovereign over all the sky and earth! You have dominion and exalt yourself as the ruler of all. You are the source of wealth and honor; you rule over all. You possess strength and might to magnify and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give thanks to you and praise your majestic name.” (NET)
- *2 Chronicles 20:6* “O Lord God of our ancestors, you are the God who lives in heaven and rules over all the kingdoms of the nations. You possess strength and power; no one can stand against you.” (NET)
- *Psalms 95:3-6* For the LORD is the great God,/ the great King above all gods./ In his hand are the depths of the earth,/ and the mountain peaks belong to him./ The sea is his, for he made it,/ and his hands formed the dry land./ Come, let us bow down in worship,/ let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;... (NIV)
- *Psalms 115:3* Our God is in heaven!/ He does whatever he pleases! (NET)
- *John 19:11* Jesus replied, “You would have no authority over me at all, unless it was given to you from above. (NET)
- Other passages: *Psalms 2; Psalms 22:27-28; 75:7; 135:5-6; Ecclesiastes 3:14; Isaiah 40:25; 44:6; 45:5-13; Jeremiah 18:6; 32:18-19,27; 50:44; Lamentations 5:19; Daniel 2:37-38,47; 4:17,32,34-35; 6:26; 7:27; Matthew 21:33-44; Acts 17:26; Romans 11:36; Philippians 2:9-11; Colossians 1:16; 1 Timothy 6:15; Hebrews 1:3; James 4:12; Revelation 1:5-6.*
- Compare the above definitions with sovereigns, kings or dictators on earth. They demand our allegiance, obedience and sometimes worship.
- God’s sovereignty is closely connected with his omnipotence. God can do and does do anything he pleases. Is God capricious in this regard?
- God is sovereign by his nature, he does not place himself in this position. Does this change your thoughts about God’s sovereignty?
- If God defines what is right and wrong, how does he decide this?
- God defines right based on his own nature. His nature is good and loving and he has the best interest of his subjects in mind.
- If God is sovereign, how does this explain that things (appear to) happen on earth that are contrary to God’s will? How much authority does God delegate? Can God’s purposes be thwarted?

Application: Subjects of God

- God has a right to our allegiance, obedience and worship.
- Although God requires this he does not force this on us. God gives us a choice as to whether we follow him, that is, become his subjects.
- All people will one day acknowledge God in his sovereignty.
- *Romans 14:10-12* For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: “ ‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.’ ” So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. (NIV)
- Those who have chosen him of their own free will will have the privilege of being his subjects forever.
- *Psalms 84:10* Better is one day in your courts/ than a thousand elsewhere;/ I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God/ than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

Application: Obedience to God

- God made us and owns us.
- God requires that people do his will. He requests this of us and we are allowed to choose.
- Doing God's will: Obedience
- Rejecting God's will: Rebellion
- *John 21:43* For this reason I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.

Application: Worship

- God is our creator. As a being God is intrinsically worthy of worship.
- Angels can not help but worship him in his presence. *Isaiah 6:1-7*; *Revelation 4:2-11*. We are to do the same.
- In worship we acknowledge God's supremacy; we give glory and honour to God.
- *Revelation 4:11* “You are worthy, our Lord and God,/ to receive glory and honour and power,/ for you created all things,/ and by your will they were created/ and have their being.” (NIV)