
Sermon Notes

February 23, 2020

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

The Supreme Sovereign 1 Chronicles 29:9-13

"You Can Be Like God"

- ❖ "What kind of 'god' would you be?" Play *Pocket God* and find out!
- ❖ The natural inclination of the human heart is to make God more human
 - Luther to Erasmus: "Your thoughts of God are too human."
 - "The 'god' of the twentieth century... is the figment of human imagination, an invention of maudlin sentimentality." (A. W. Pink)
 - Psalm 50:21 *you thought that I was one like yourself*
- ❖ Knowing God as fully, carefully, deeply, diligently, accurately, personally, and intimately as we can fuels our love, devotion, worship of and service to God

Sovereignty

- ❖ A supreme ruler who possesses supreme or ultimate power
- ❖ "To say God is sovereign is to say the He is supreme over all things, that there is no one above Him." (A. W. Tozer)

- no one higher than God
- nothing outside of God's control
- nothing God has not foreseen or planned
- ❖ God is King of kings and Lord of lords now and forever
- ❖ The Bible gives us many models of how to worship God for His sovereignty
 - one beautiful example of this is in 1 Chron 29:9-13
 - the people bring an outpouring of love gifts to the Lord
 - David praises God saying: *you are exalted as head above all... you rule over all.*
 - David testifies that the massive offering God's people bring is entirely prompted by God
 - ◆ *all things come from you, and of your own have we given you* (1 Chron 29:14)
 - ◆ *O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own.* (1 Chron 29:16)
 - we can't give to God without God!
- ❖ God does what He wants, when He wants, in the way He wants
 - Red Sea (Ex 14); earth opens and swallows rebels (Nu 16); sun stands still (Josh 10); shadow goes backward 10° on palace steps (Is 38:8); ravens carry food to Elijah (1 Ki 17); iron floats (2 Ki 6:5); lions do not attack Daniel (Dan 6); Daniel's 3 friends not burned (Dan 3)

- God rules over all (Eph 1:11; Dan 4:35; Amos 3:6; Pro 16:9, 19:21, 16:33; Psalm 115:3)
- God is the potter, we are the clay
- "God does as He pleases, only as He pleases, always as He pleases. None can thwart Him, none can hinder Him." (A. W. Pink)
- ❖ God has both the authority **AND** the power to rule over all (1 Chronicles 29:12)
 - some have authority but no power (United Nations)
 - some have power but no authority (Samson)
- ❖ Knowing that God rules over all brings us assurance in the midst of adversity and trial (Romans 8:28)

But What About "Free Will"?

- ❖ How can God's sovereignty over every area of our lives not result in making us into robots?
- ❖ There is a high degree of mystery about this
 - we are unable to see how the parallel tracks of God's sovereignty and human responsibility work together
 - in God's plan these two tracks mutually reinforce one another and function as a unified whole
- ❖ Some things to observe from Scripture and some reliable conclusions we can make about these mysteries
 - we are born in bondage as slaves of sin (Eph 2:1; 2 Cor 4:4; Eph 4:18; 1 Cor 2:14; Rom 8:7, 6:6, 8:8)

- although we are slaves of sin, we love our sin (Jn 3:19) and, as a result, we are responsible for our sin, accountable to God for it and liable to judgment
- the evil in our hearts does not limit or hinder the complete sovereignty of God over all things (Pro 21:2; Ezra 6:22; Gen 20:6; Acts 4:27-28)
- when God moves in on us, He gives us a new will, a new heart, and new desires (2 Cor 4:6, Rom 6:22)
- although we become slaves of God, slavery to God is true freedom that leads to eternal life and eternal joy
- the new, true freedom God gives us does not limit God's complete sovereignty over all things (Heb 13:21, Eph 1:1)
- ❖ William Cowper, *God Moves in a Mysterious Way*

Personal Reflection

1. Psalm 50:21 indicts God's people for thinking of God in human terms. Are there ways in which your thoughts about God are "too human"? What steps do you need to take to correct these misconceptions?
2. In your worship (personal and corporate) how do you express appreciation for and thanksgiving to God for His rulership and control over all things?
3. Re-read the account in 1 Chronicles 29. What challenges you most about the people's response to God and David's testimony about God's sovereignty?
4. As you think about the interplay between God's sovereignty and human responsibility, what brings you the greatest assurance about how God is at work in every area of your life?