

Scripture: Ps. 46

Series: *Knowing God #10* & Lord's Day 9-10

Singing: 258:1, 4-5 – 152:1-5 – 210:1-5 – 388:1-3

The Sovereignty of God (1)

Intro: What is most devastating as well as most curing according to Hosea 4:6?

Be still and know that I am God. (Ps. 46:10)

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. (1 Cor. 10:13)

O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O King. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods ... Dan. 3:16-17

A. Selection of key verses revealing God's sovereignty

1. Deut 10:12-15 – 1 Sam. 2:6-8 – 1 Chron. 29:11-12 – Ps. 115:3 – 135:3-6
Jeremiah 27:1-7 – Daniel 2:20, 21 – 4:17, 34-37

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

- I. The definition of His Sovereignty
- II. The extent of His Sovereignty
- III. The comfort of His Sovereignty

I. THE DEFINITION OF GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

A. God's sovereignty is *His freedom to do as it pleases Him to do*

1. It is His independence to will and to do as He desires

a. Ephesians 1:3-13

b. History of Joseph: Gen. 50:19-20

b. History of Job: Job 42:1-5

c. Parable's main point: Matt. 20:15

d. Romans 9:11-23: *The Justification of God!*

2. To speak of sovereignty of God is to speak of His Godhood!

B. God's sovereignty is *never in isolation to His other attributes*

1. His sovereignty is not an *arbitrariness* – *randomness*

2. Hear how Job combines God's attributes in Job 9:4, 12:13, 16

C. Our fallen natures have a giant struggle to surrender to God's sovereignty
1. We allow God nearly everywhere except upon His throne (Gen. 3)

2. Bible records how that God's saints battled with God's sovereignty

II. THE EXTENT OF GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

A. God sovereignty controls every detail of our existence

1. We usually don't struggle to accept that fact about 'good things' of life

2. But we do struggle to accept this fact about the 'bad things' of life

B. Scripture declares that God as sovereign God rules over *every event*

1. See Eccl. 3:1-8: *God has all these 'times' in His sovereign control*

2. The 'crisis stories' in the Bible are *testimonies to God* (1 Cor. 10:13)

Reflect: *Where is God when things go bad? Evil triumphs? How can I trust Him?*

A. This no theoretical question: *this is the anguish of many hearts!*

1. World around us is summed up in one word: *misery!*

2. Those courageous enough to share reveal a titanic struggle to trust God

B. Many come up with cheap solutions which all take God of throne

C. Scripture records multiple *confessions of faith in a Sovereign God*

1. These confessions are in context of adversity: Rom. 8:38-39; 2 Cor. 4:8-18

D. God's Direction: *Isaiah 40:(27-)-31*

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings as eagles;
they shall run, and not be weary;
and they shall walk, and not faint.