

May 24, 2020

**If God is Sovereign!  
What is He Sovereign Over?  
Isaiah 46:8-11**

Introduction

**Isaiah 46:8-11 (ESV)** "Remember this and stand firm,  
recall it to mind, you transgressors,  
9 remember the former things of old;  
for I am God, and there is no other;  
I am God, and there is none like me,  
10 declaring the end from the beginning  
and from ancient times things not yet done,  
saying, 'My counsel shall stand,  
and I will accomplish all my purpose,'  
11 calling a bird of prey from the east,  
the man of my counsel from a far country.  
I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass;  
I have purposed, and I will do it.

Why would anyone be offended about anything that  
God might have planned or do?

R.C. Sproul said, "there is not a maverick molecule  
in the entire universe"!

**Proverbs 19:21 (ESV)** Many are the plans in the mind  
of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will  
stand.

**Isaiah 14:24-27 (ESV)** The Lord of hosts has sworn:  
"As I have planned, so shall it be,  
and as I have purposed, so shall it stand,  
25 that 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."  
26 This is the purpose that is purposed  
concerning the whole earth,

and this is the hand that is stretched out  
over all the nations.

27 For the Lord of hosts has purposed,  
and who will annul it?

His hand is stretched out,  
and who will turn it back?

Psalm 115:3 (ESV) Our God is in the heavens;  
he does all that he pleases.

Psalm 135:6 (ESV) Whatever the Lord pleases, he  
does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all  
deeps.

Knowing that..

Romans 8:28 (ESV) And we know that for those who  
love God all things work together for good, for those  
who are called according to his purpose.

Knowing that He is always just and always good

Knowing that He is sovereign

Let me ask you, how comfortable are you with God  
being absolutely sovereign?

Job 25:6 (ESV) How much less man, who is a maggot,  
and the son of man, who is a worm!"

Isaiah 40:17 (ESV) All nations before him are as  
nothing; and they are counted to him less than  
nothing, and vanity.

Psalm 8:3-8 (ESV) When I look at your heavens, the  
work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars, which you have set in  
place,

4 what is man that you are mindful of him,  
and the son of man that you care for him?

5 Yet you have made him a little lower than the  
heavenly beings[a]

and crowned him with glory and honor.

6 You have given him dominion over the works of your  
hands;

you have put all things under his feet.

God's Decrees-The blueprint, the plan  
God's Providence-Brings the blueprint to completion  
The decrees took place in eternity past, providence  
takes place as history is played out!

***Nothing or no one escapes God's decrees!***

First the Bible states that God's decrees are  
universal!

**Daniel 4:34-35 (ESV)** At the end of the days I,  
Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my  
reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High,  
and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his  
dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom  
endures from generation to generation; 35 all 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?"

**Romans 11:36 (ESV)** For from him and through him  
and to him are all things. To him be glory forever.  
Amen.

**Ephesians 1:22 (ESV)** And he put all things under his  
feet and gave him as head over all things to the  
church

Second the Bible specifically teaches that all classes  
of events are included in God's decree!

a. Good and evil events

**Isaiah 45:7 (ESV)** I form light and create  
darkness; I make well-being and create calamity;  
I am the Lord, who does all these things.

**Amos 3:6 (ESV)** Is a trumpet blown in a city,  
and the people are not afraid?

Does disaster come to a city,  
unless the Lord has done it?

**Job 2:9-10 (ESV)** Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die." 10 But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

**Jeremiah 15:2 (ESV)** And when they ask you, 'Where shall we go?' you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord: "'Those who are for pestilence, to pestilence, and those who are for the sword, to the sword; those who are for famine, to famine, and those who are for captivity, to captivity.'

b. Sinful acts

**Genesis 50:20 (ESV)** As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

**2 Samuel 16:10-11 (ESV)** But the king said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruah? If he is cursing because the Lord has said to him, 'Curse David,' who then shall say, 'Why have you done so?'" 11 And David said to Abishai and to all his servants, "Behold, my own son seeks my life; how much more now may this Benjaminite! Leave him alone, and let him curse, for the Lord has told him to.

**1 Chronicles 21:1 (ESV)** Then Satan stood against Israel and incited David to number Israel.

**Job 1:11-12 (ESV)** But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face." 12 And 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.

**Luke 22:22 (ESV)** For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!"

**Acts 2:23 (ESV)** This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

**Acts 4:27-28 (ESV)** 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 plan had predestined to take place.

c. Free acts of men

**Proverbs 16:9 (ESV)** The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.

**Proverbs 21:1 (ESV)** The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will.

d. Chance occurrences

**Job 5:6 (ESV)** For affliction does not come from the dust, nor does trouble sprout from the ground.

**Job 36:32 (ESV)** He covers his hands with the lightning and commands it to strike the mark.

**Proverbs 16:33 (ESV)** The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.

e. Details of our lives

**Job 14:5 (ESV)** Since his days are determined, and the number of his months is with you, and you have appointed his limits that he cannot pass.

**Psalms 139:16 (ESV)** Your 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.

**Matthew 10:29-30 (ESV)** Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.

**James 4:15 (ESV)** Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."

f. Affairs of nations

**2 Kings 5:1 (ESV)** Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper.

**Psalms 75:1-7 (ESV)** We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks, for your name is near.

We recount your wondrous deeds.

**2** "At the set time that I appoint

I will judge with equity.

**3** When the earth totters, and all its inhabitants, it is I who keep steady its pillars. Selah

**4** I say to the boastful, 'Do not boast,'

and to the wicked, 'Do not lift up your horn;

**5** do not lift up your horn on high,

or speak with haughty neck."

**6** For not from the east or from the west

and not from the wilderness comes lifting up,

**7** but it is God who executes judgment,

putting down one and lifting up another.

**Proverbs 21:31 (ESV)** The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the Lord.

**Daniel 2:21 (ESV)** He changes times and seasons;

he removes kings and sets up kings;

he gives wisdom to the wise

and knowledge to those who have

understanding.

g. The final destruction of the wicked

**1 Samuel 2:25 (ESV)** If someone sins against a man, God will mediate for him, but if someone sins against the Lord, who can intercede for him?" But they would not listen to the voice of

their father, for it was the will of the Lord to put them to death.

Proverbs 16:4 (ESV) The Lord has made everything for its purpose,

even the wicked for the day of trouble. .

Romans 9:17 (ESV) For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."

1 Peter 2:8 (ESV) And "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

Jude 4 (ESV) For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ

h. The salvation of souls

John 1:12-13 (ESV) But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Ephesians 2:1-5 (ESV) And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved—

**1 Thessalonians 5:9 (ESV) For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

So what have you done with this sovereign God who does all that He does for His own glory?  
What is your attitude toward a God who is sovereign over all?

What would it harm to fully embrace the absolute sovereignty of God?

**1 Peter 5:5-7 (ESV) Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.**

Next week we will spend time looking at the Bible says about God being sovereign over the salvation of souls!