

Scripture:
Singing:

Ps. 73

Series: *Knowing God #11 & Lord's Day 9-10*
308:1, 3, 4 – 101:1-5 – 106:1-6 – 439:1, 2

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY (2)

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

Intro: Nebuchadnezzar's confession of God's sovereignty is not the full picture!

And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay His hand or say unto Him: What doest thou? Dan. 4:35

A. **Definition:** *God's sovereignty is His freedom to do as it pleases Him to do*
Ps. 115:3 *But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever He hath pleased* (Matt. 11:25; John 19:11)

B. **Extent** of God's sovereignty: *From the endless galaxy to a single hair!*
See Lord's Day 9-10 (Gen. 42:36; 45:7-8; 50:20)

C. **Comfort:** *How will I experience the comfort in God's sovereignty?*

1. The only way is *through faith only*

- Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. (Is. 26:3)

- With him [king of Assyria] is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah. (2 Chron. 32:8)

- And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but He was asleep ... And He saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? (Matt. 8:24-26)

2. Not just faith in God's sovereignty but faith in 'God the Father Almighty'
a. confidence and rest are only experienced when by faith we embrace

the revelation of God's attributes as seen in

- Ps. 145
- Habakkuk 3:17-19
- Ps. 18:30, 35 & Ps. 3:5-8

D. To come to this comfort is *God at work* as seen in Ps. 73

1. Vs. 1: confession of faith

2. Vs. 2-28: details of the struggle and victory of faith

- a. vs. 2: He nearly gave up on God
- b. vs. 3-8 & 13-14: reasons why he struggled

v. vs. 2, 3, 13, 15, 16, 21: feelings Asaph struggled with

E. Five observations on Asaph's struggle and victory

I. We need to guard our thoughts when we deal with God's providence

- A. To be perplexed – troubled – cast down is not uncommon: 2 Cor. 4:8
- B. But perplexity opens us up to temptation that nearly took Asaph down

II. Be careful what you speak when swept up in perplexity and doubt

- A. Asaph did not say the things when they were swirling within (vs. 15)
- B. This is great wisdom: if we cannot say what is helpful, better to be silent

III. Our recovery comes through the grace of God

- A. What restored Asaph was *not his decision to go to church* (vs. 17ff, 28)
- B. It was God's gracious act: 23-24

IV. Restoration is through faith in God's Being and Doing

- A. Faith in God is the key to be *free (past) and at peace (present/future)*
 - 1. Asaph's distress ended when his faith in God recovered: 17-28
 - a. He saw that *God controls all things* (vs. 18)
 - b. He saw that *God is God of justice* (vs. 19-20, 27)
 - c. He saw that *God is trustworthy*: 22-26
 - 2. He also went into *sanctuary to draw near to God* (17, 28)

V. We are encouraged by his example to place our trust in God the Father

- A. Hear his beautiful confession in vs. 23-24
 - 1. Not only does he trust that *God is holding His hand*
 - 2. He also trusted that *God was guiding him with his counsel (Providence)*

Close: God calls: *Come, TRUST Me at all times, ye people, pour out your heart before Him: God is a refuge for us. Selah. (Ps. 62:8)*