

THE DEMONSTRATION OF THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD THROUGH THE CROSS OF CHRIST

Sovereignty of God: Whatever God purposes He will bring to fulfillment. He is in control of His plans and nothing can stop Him from accomplishing what He intends.

1. God used Satan for His glory.

Matt. 16:23, But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

In Matt. 16:16, Peter confesses Jesus is the Son of God about which the Lord Jesus said that Peter received this revelation from the Father in heaven.

Then in verse 21, the Lord Jesus predicts suffering, death and resurrection from the dead. Then Peter, with good intention, rebukes Jesus and desires such tragedy must never happen to him.

The Lord Jesus said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan....” (**Matt. 16:23**)

If Satan here is stopping the Lord Jesus from going to the cross, how do you answer these Scriptures?

Luke 22:1-4, Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put him to death, for they feared the people. Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve. He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them.

John 13:2, “During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him.”

Conclusion: In Matt. 16:16, Jesus is not talking that Satan is hindering Him from going to the cross, but that Peter, like the adversary Satan, hindering the work of God on the cross.

In fact, Satan wanted to see Jesus go to the cross (**Lu. 22:4; Jn. 13:2**), which God has used to accomplish His will in saving people for His glory.

Colossians 2:15, He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him (Christ).

Hebrews 2:14-15, Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

1 John 3:8, Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

App. God uses Satan for His glory.

2. God used the wicked plot of the evil people for His glory.

1 Corinthians 2:8, None of the rulers of this age (Jewish and Roman leaders) understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Acts 2:22-24, Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

Acts 3:17-18, And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers (in crucifying Christ). But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled.

App. God uses even the evil people for His glory.

3. God used our own moral failure for His glory.

Before showing our own moral failure, let me show the genealogy of Jesus:

- **Matthew 1:3**, “and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar.”
- **Matthew 1:5**, “and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab.”
- **Matthew 1:6**, “And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah.”

Romans 5:20-21, “Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Imagine there is period after “trespass.”

- Adam’s imputed sin
- Sin’s increase due to law
- Man is condemned to death [hopelessness]

But God used our moral failure to bring salvation through the cross of Christ Jesus.

Colossians 2:13-14, And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

App. God uses our own moral failure for His glory.