

Trusting God
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Chapter 3
The Sovereignty of God

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The Sovereignty of God

Outline

- What is Sovereignty
- What does it mean for us?
- How does it operate?
- God's sovereignty is not always apparent
- When adversity strike us

The Sovereignty of God – what is it?

- The sovereignty of God may be defined as the exercise of His supremacy. Being infinitely elevated above the highest creature. He is the Most High, Lord of heaven and earth. Subject to none, influenced by none, absolutely independent; God does as he pleases. None can thwart Him, none can hinder Him.

Arthur Pink, The Attributes of God, pg 40

- This is the essence of God's sovereignty: His absolute independence to do as He pleases and His absolute control of all His creatures. No creature, person or empire can either thwart His will or act outside the bounds of His will.

Bridges, Trusting God, pg 24

*All the inhabitants of the earth are of no account,
But He does according to His will among the army of heaven
And among the inhabitants of earth;
And no one can fend off His hand
Or say to Him, 'What have You done?'*

Daniel 4:35 NASB

The Sovereignty of God – What does it mean for us?

- In General
 - God exercises sovereignty over everything, creation, people, nations
 - God does as he pleases
- Personal
 - Nothing is so small or trivial as to escape His sovereignty
 - His sovereignty is not only for our eternal lives but in our present, which was designed even before we were born
 - *If there is a single event in all of the universe that can occur outside of God's sovereign control then we can not trust Him...*, but because there is no single event in all of the universe that can occur outside of God's sovereign control then we can trust Him.
 - God is sovereign over good and bad

The Sovereignty of God – What does it mean for us?

- God is sovereign over good and bad

*On the day of prosperity be happy,
But on the day of adversity consider:
God has made the one as well as the
other*

*So that a person will not discover
anything that will come after him.*

Ecclesiastes 7:14 NASB

*And we know that God causes all things
to work together for good to those who
love God, to those who are called
according to His purpose*

Romans 8:28 NASB

The sovereignty of God is the one impregnable rock to which the suffering human heart must cling. The circumstances surrounding our lives are no accident, they may be the work of evil, but that evil is held firmly within the mighty hand of our sovereign God.

...All evil is subject to Him and evil cannot touch His children unless He permits it. God is the Lord of human history and of the personal history of every member of His redeemed family.

Margaret Clarkson

The Sovereignty of God – How does it operate?

- God's sovereignty does not negate our responsibility to live a responsible and prudent life
- God is never surprised, never caught off guard, never frustrated by unexpected developments
- God exercises His Sovereignty in wisdom and love, He is perfect in love and infinite in wisdom
- God does care, He exercises His sovereignty for His Glory and the good of His people
- We are in the hands of God who controls every circumstance of our lives and rejoices in doing us good:

I will rejoice over them to do them good and will faithfully plant them in this land with all My heart and all My soul.

Jeremiah 32:14 NASB

The Sovereignty of God – God's sovereignty is not always apparent

God works in the silence

Esther

1. Why could the king not sleep that faithful night?
2. Why did he ask for a register of facts to be read?
3. Why did the reader happen to read about Morecai's action?
4. Why the King had not rewarded Mordecai?
5. Why did he suddenly determine to do something?
6. Why did Haman appear at that moment?
7. Why did the King ask Haman what should be done to honor Mardocai?

Ruth

1. Ruth went to glean the fields and ends up in Boaz' field
2. Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem
3. Boaz ask the foreman, whose young woman is that?
4. Boaz responds favorable to Ruth
5. and.... the closer relative does not redeem Ruth

The Sovereignty of God – When adversity strike us

- It is difficult to believe God is in control when we are in the midst of anxiety, heartache or grief, it is a “tough stuff”
- I never feel like trusting God when adversity strikes but I can choose to do so even when I don’t feel like it
- The act of will must be based on belief (faith), and belief must be based on truth

When priority strikes “we tend to make our first priority the gaining of relief from our feelings of heartache or disappointment or frustration. This is a natural desire and God has promised to give us grace sufficient for our trials and peace for our anxieties”.

Bridges pg 42

And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

2 Cor 12:9 NASB

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and pleading with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7 NASB