

Personal Study Guide
Part 3 The Sovereignty of God

Read the following introduction then watch the video using pages 2, 3 & 4 to take notes. Use the information on page 5 to dig deeper during the week and page 6 to discuss with a friend.

Introduction: In flight - Hong Kong to Beijing

Question: What makes you think your god is better than everyone else's god?

Answer: The God I worship . . .

- . . . is before **ALL** things. Colossians 1:17, Psalm 90:2, Revelation 1:8, 1 Timothy 6:16
- . . . created **ALL** things. Genesis 1:1, John 1:3, Colossians 1:16
- . . . upholds **ALL** things. Hebrews 1:3, Colossians 1:17
- . . . is above **ALL** things. Ephesians 4:6, Isaiah 45:5-12
- . . . knows **ALL** things. Isaiah 46:10, Psalm 139:4,6
- . . . can do **ALL** things. Jeremiah 32:27, Luke 1:37
- . . . accomplishes **ALL** things. Isaiah 14:24 & 46:10, Ephesians 1:11
- . . . rules over **ALL** things. Daniel 4:34-35, 1 Chronicles 29:11-12
- . . . is in control of **ALL** things. Job 42:2, Romans 8:28
 - *earthly kings* Proverbs 21:1, Revelation 19:16
 - *human events* Daniel 2 & 7, Psalm 33:9-11
 - *good angels* Colossians 1:15-16, Revelation 4:8
 - *Satan & bad angels* Job 1:6, Ephesians 1:21, Philippians 2:10
 - *human decisions* Ephesians 1:11, Romans 8:29-30, Acts 2:23; 13:48

In a word, I worship the Sovereign God of the universe.

Watch Session 3 of The Real God and Take notes below.

Defining the sovereignty of God:

- Sovereign = **adj.** (1) above or superior to all others; chief; greatest; supreme (2) supreme in power, rank, or authority (3) of or holding the position of ruler; royal; reigning (4) independent of all others (5) excellent; outstanding – **n.** (1) a person who possesses sovereign authority or power; specific, a monarch or ruler
- Synonymous meaning = *ruler, ultimate authority, “in control,” King of kings, Lord of lords, without equal, without limitation in any way, the only absolutely free being in the universe.*

The sovereignty of God
is that which
separates the God of the Bible
from all other religions, truth claims, or philosophies.

When we say God is sovereign,
we declare
that by virtue of His creatorship over all life and reality,
and His all-knowing, all-powerful, and benevolent rule,
that He is in fact the Lord of all lords, King of all kings,
and in absolute control of time and eternity.

Nothing will come into my life today
that He did not either allow or decree
for my ultimate good.

How does God reveal His sovereignty to us?

- **Through His _____** - SOVEREIGN LORD, MOST HIGH GOD, ALPHA & OMEGA, KINGS OF KINGS, LORD OF LORDS

- **Through His _____**
 - Romans 8:28-30
 - Philippians 2:9-11

- **Through _____**
 - Daniel 2:27
 - Isaiah 44:6-8
 - Daniel 7-12 (kingdoms predicted)

- **Through _____**
 - His supernatural birth Galatians 4:4, Matthew 2:3-6
 - His perfect life - fulfilled 100s of prophecies Matthew 4:14; Matthew 12:15-21
 - His Messianic teaching John 8:48-58
 - His willful death and miraculous John 10:17-18
 - resurrection Acts 1:9-11; Revelation 19:11-16
 - His ultimate reign

- **Through Redeeming the _____ in Our Lives**
 Genesis 37- 50:20

Two questions the sovereignty of God raises:

1. If God is sovereign, why did/does He allow evil, pain, and suffering?
 (The Problem of Pain – C.S. Lewis)

2. If God is sovereign over all people and events in history, doesn't this make a sham of human responsibility? (Chosen but Free – Norman Geisler)

How must we respond to the sovereign God?

1. _____ before the King of the universe. Philippians 2:9-11

Application: Absolute SURRENDER of all you are and all you have!

2. _____ all that comes into your life is either allowed or decreed by a good God who will use it for your benefit.

Romans 8:28-29, Genesis 50:20

Application: Absolutely refuse to WORRY!

3. _____ in awe the mystery and majesty of His kind, compassionate, just, and sovereign rule of all that is or will ever be.

Romans 11:33-36, Genesis 50:20

Application: WORSHIP God for who He is, not merely for what He has done!

Application:

1. Share the greatest comfort you experience right now because of the sovereignty of God, with a friend or family member.
2. Take some time to look up and read the passages in these notes.
3. For more in depth study, write out the passages and then your response in prayer.

This section is designed to help you discover what God's Word says about the sovereignty of God.

Sometimes it can seem that God isn't looking out for our best interests. We can't make sense of our lives, and we don't understand why certain things happen. Because we can't see things from His eternal perspective, we can feel confusion, anger, or disillusionment.

1. Read Colossians 1:15-20

"The son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church, he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross"

From this passage about the supremacy and sovereignty of Christ, circle the words or phrases that most stand out to you. Then write out a one sentence summary of these verses.

2. Memorize Romans 8:28-29 (NLT) Spend some time right now beginning to memorize this wonderful promise from God. This week when you are tempted to worry about an issue, quote these verses and let them bring comfort.

"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters"

3. This week listen to the Chris Tomlin song, "Praise the Father, Praise the Son." Let this song lead you to worship and praise God for His Sovereignty.

TALK IT OVER

We are better together because God created us for relationships. Work through the following questions with a friend.

1. In Genesis 50:20 Joseph said, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."

As you reflect back over your life, what is something that was painful, bad, and maybe even evil that God in His sovereignty used for good?

2. In the space below, write out a list of things that you are most concerned about in life. Then, release these to God's sovereignty and good plan for your life.

God is absolutely sovereign over. . .

3. How can the truth about God's sovereignty - His absolute control- impact your prayer life?
