

## QUOTES:

**A.W. Pink:** "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, only as He pleases, always as He pleases." *The Sovereignty of God*

**J.I. Packer:** "To know that nothing happens in God's world apart from God's will may frighten the godless, but it stabilizes the saints." *Knowing God*

**John MacArthur:** "God's sovereignty means that He is in complete control of everything that happens, both in the universe and in our lives. Nothing is outside of His plan—not even evil or suffering."  
*The MacArthur Study Bible*

## COMMON QUESTIONS:

### **Did God predestine who will be saved?**

Yes, Scripture teaches predestination, but also calls all to respond in faith.

Ephesians 1:4 - 5 "He predestined us... according to the purpose of His will."

Romans 8:29 - 30 "Whom He foreknew, He also predestined..."

### **If God is sovereign, do I have a will?**

Yes. God's sovereignty includes human will. Our sin nature binds our will to its demands (Romans 6). It is not accurate to say that we have a free will. But we have a will for which we are responsible.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world,[a] that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

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

### **How can God be sovereign and still hold people accountable for their choices?**

God's sovereignty does not negate human responsibility. People are given the opportunity to make decisions and on that basis are held accountable.

Rom 9:19–21 God holds people accountable, even within His sovereign will

Genesis 3 and the pronouncement of the curse upon humanity

Acts 2:23 Jesus was crucified by "lawless hands," though it was God's eternal plan

### **Can prayer change God's sovereign will?**

Prayer does not change God's ultimate will but is the means of aligning our wills and desires with God's unfolding plan. Our prayers are all part of God's sovereign will.

James 5:16 "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

Exodus 32:14 God "relented" after Moses prayed, yet it was within His sovereign plan.

Matthew 6:10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

### **Why does a sovereign God allow evil and suffering?**

God allows evil, tragedy and suffering so that His righteousness, justice and mercy are displayed. These are not bound by our time schedule.

Genesis 50:20 "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good."

Romans 8:28 "All things work together for good to those who love God..."

Deut. 29:29 "The secret things belong to the Lord"

James 1:13 "God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone."

Why are we willing to accept God's control when "good things happen", but not when "bad things happen"?  
How will you answer the question of evil when you get home?

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

### GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY DEFINED:

God's is over everything. God's supreme rule and authority and ordination of everything

**Psalm 103:19 – The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His sovereignty rules over all.**

**Psalm 115:3 “Our God is in the heavens; He does all that He pleases.”**

**Isaiah 46:9–10 “I am God... declaring the end from the beginning... saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all My purpose.’”**

**Ephesians 1:11 –“...according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.”**

### WHAT WE KNOW:

God is sovereign

He created, sustains & owns everything

He sets the standard for entering Heaven

God is not the author of sin but He allows it in His infinite wisdom and providence

Man is not morally neutral, he is already heading to Hell being depraved

Any decisions we make are in the context of hearts that are deceitful and desperately wicked

God chooses some people for salvation, this is one of His decrees

Man is responsible for rejecting God

Believers must be faithful to relentlessly obey God's command to evangelize

God will forgive anyone who repents

All things are done for His glory.

### WHAT WE DO NOT KNOW:

Who is elect

When someone will repent

Details of why God allows trials, tragedies, blessings to happen (ultimately Rom 8:28)

Bottom line: God works through fallen, sinful humans to accomplish His perfect will. He works in and through us, but is all powerful, all knowing, and absolutely free.

History and future are in God's control. He is not responding to my decisions but is previous.