

February 18, 2024

SOVEREIGNTY

Today we examine a single word that is often used but still remains at the very edge of our intellectual comprehension. The secular definition concludes that sovereignty means having supreme power or authority./// That is an ambiguous definition with no hint of the origin, continuum, moral ethical or right wrong implications. I want to lead us away from the secular dimension definition - to a sacred and tangible understanding and application of sovereignty in our own lives.

The author of the book entitled *THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD* by Arthur Pink, gave me the introduction for today: “Something more than a theoretical knowledge of God is needed by us. God is only truly known in the soul as we yield ourselves to Him, submit to His authority, and regulate all the details of our life by His holy precepts and commandments.” - “A spiritual and saving knowledge of God is the greatest need of every human creature.”

There is absolutely nothing that happens or ever has or will happen in the universe that is outside of God’s influence and authority!!! As King of kings and Lord of lords, God has no limitations. Any artificial limitations on God in our minds are prompted by satan. Those prompts are nefarious which means wicked and villainous. ///Just don’t waste your time or energy going there. **1 Corinthians 8:6** *yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.*

Consider a few more instructions in the Bible as proof texts:

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

Psalms 115:3 *But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.*

Isaiah 46:8-10 *“Remember this, and show yourselves men; Recall to mind, O you transgressors .9 Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me. 10 Declaring the end from the beginning,*

2. And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'

Jeremiah 32:17 *'Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You.*

Daniel 4:35 *All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"*

Romans 9:20 *But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?"*

Colossians 1:16 *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.*

Revelation 21:6 *And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.*

Last week we looked at one attribute of the sovereign God which was love and He is the perfect expression of that attribute for us to model for fullness of life.

As a reminder and help in understanding sovereignty we read: **John 4:24** *God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth.*

That helps us to understand that although the Bible describes a throne in heaven with Jesus seated at the right hand of God we must understand that God is universal. He is present there in heaven, here in Meeker & everywhere all the time. GOD is present everywhere in our universe and including beyond what He has chosen to reveal to us in the Bible. That is what God being sovereign discloses to us.

Our human logical instinct is to try and base God on what we can decipher by our own mental acuteness, or that we have experience to compare Him with. But that is a satanic piece of work. Please cast off that imprisoning and limiting temptation

3. today if you have not already done so!!! God permits us to understand what He wants us to know for our eternal life in Him. If you will grasp the dynamic of God right here and everywhere at all times in your existence then suddenly it will be like standing in the center of the football field in the largest stadium ever built on a black, cloudy night and suddenly every light is turned on. The clouds lift and you can see a full moon and the heavens above. Please let the Holy Spirit into your being, catch the fullness of God and His righteousness, and determine to seek and live gloriously, as a loved unique creation of this almighty, complete God manifest by love.

Catch your breath – because satan is going to find some way to attack you - to depreciate the passion for a comprehensive understanding of HIS divine sovereignty. Here is some help in that regard:

In church language we would say sovereignty encompasses omniscience = all knowledge; omnipresence = everywhere present all the time, omnipotent = all power.

The sovereignty of God means God was before He created all that is apparent to us. And we do not know and cannot fathom what else is beyond what He has graciously chosen to reveal to us.

As Creator, GOD alone is the controller, sustainer, moral compass and has the power to destroy or alter any or all of HIS creation, seen or unseen. God as sovereign is the only possible entity to whom the word Sovereign can even apply! God is the ruler of all and enforcer of the righteous instruction HE teaches and with that He is the destroyer of anything and everything else. God and God alone is the only ultimate judge, condemner and He alone creates and determines who will inhabit the dwelling places He created of eternity for both the saved and unsaved. God's purpose and will is His sovereign privilege and consequent of circumstances of events on earth and in heaven.

We are starting to grasp the sacred/ holy relationship of the personage of Sovereignty and how HE created us to respond in awesome righteous, fear, adoration, and obedience

4. in all aspects of our lives – especially our faith maturity and personal relationship with Jesus our Savior and HIS righteousness.

Oh if there were just the words to express Sovereignty so that we could all put on that Sovereignty as the armor, first goal, and highest motivation in our earthly existence in preparation for eternity's inheritance. ///

In the world, the naive', outright rebellious, or even the well intended but socially and culturally enamored individuals who miss and end up ignoring the sacred - in favor of the secular definition and corresponding response to Sovereignty. That secular application cries out for justice with their academic theory that suffering can and will be removed from the earth by the progressive evolution of society. /// How is that playing out in our world today? /// You – yes, you are a jurist in the court of world order and progress. What is your reasoned conclusion? Which definition of Sovereignty have you accepted? By which definition do you live? -- Do you live that the ultimate power for mankind is the power and might of the human endeavor? - OR - do you wholeheartedly accept the completeness and presence of Sovereign God? -- There is no middle ground you can only respond with a yes or no. – I repeat Do you live that the ultimate power for mankind is the power and might of the human endeavor? - OR - do you wholeheartedly accept the completeness and presence of Sovereign God?

By accepting Sovereignty and growing in faith means being encompassed about with a righteous sacred response. /// That is life in the assurance of the Creators purpose and HIS will prevailing according to HIS plan for creation and Y O U recognized as part of that plan.

Romans 1:20 *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,* God's Sovereignty is everywhere and at all times apparent.

For mankind to ignore or otherwise be confounded by sovereignty is to join satan's manipulation causing them to deny God with its prophesied consequences.

5. Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* Faith is the human activity of obedience to God with promised consequences. And is paramount in hearing, believing, responding, and inheriting the Sovereign God's unchangeable creation and it's force in each of our lives.

Hebrews 12:1-2 *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.* Everything in creation and those who committed to that revealed truth are our witnesses for God's Sovereign power at work on earth and in the lives of persons in every generation.

Colossians 2:2 *that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ,* One part of the "mystery of God" is understanding His Sovereignty and it's impact on earth and in the responsive lives of we, His created beings.

1 Peter 2:9 *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;* That is the Sovereign power of God's love we spoke of last week being unmistakably obvious in our lives, community and every influence we may exert.

The result of trusting in God's Sovereignty is knowing that His good purposes will come to fruition in and through our earth-suits – we are God's messengers while alive.

Nothing can hinder God's plan; history will be worked out according to the will of our Sovereign God:

NLT Romans 8:28 *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.*

NLT Ephesians 1:11 *Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have*

6. received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.

The purposes of God are the most important reality in the Christian's life. Our new life in God's Spirit is based on his purposes for us, and sometimes that includes suffering. Those difficulties in this life serve a purpose in God's Sovereign plan, not always clear to us at the time.

NLT James 1:2–4, 12; Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. 3 For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. 4 So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing ...12 God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

God's Sovereignty is that despite our unworthiness, he chooses to love and save us anyway as we chose to submit to His divine authority. He gives everyone the freedom to accept or reject his love, but has as His Sovereign prerogative to judge and bless or curse accordingly.

1 Corinthians 8:6

Genesis 1:1

Psalms 115:3

Isaiah 46:8-10

Jeremiah 32:17

Daniel 4:35

Romans 9:20

Colossians 1:16

Revelation 21:6

Romans 1:20

Hebrews 11:1

Hebrews 12:1-2

Colossians 2:2

1 Peter 2:9

NLT Romans 8:28

NLT Ephesians 1:11

NLT James 1:2–4, 12