

# **God's Sovereignty & me**

## **"The Buck Stops Here"**

### **Review:**

Isaiah 43:7 **everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."**

Ephesians 1:5 **he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,**

Ephesians 1:6 **to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.**

**"this world exists for the glory of God's grace revealed in the saving work of Jesus."**

**John Piper**

### **Calibration:**

Psalms 8:3 **When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,**

Psalms 8:4 **what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?**

Revelation 4:2 **At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.**

**God is Great, God is Good;  
Let us thank Him for our food.  
By His hands we all are fed,  
Give us Lord our Daily Bread.**

**Amen.**

***"If God is all-good, He would destroy evil and if God is all-powerful, He could destroy evil. But evil is not destroyed; hence, there is no such God."***

In order to find comfort in the absolute Sovereignty of God in all things you have to stand firm in the fact that God exists and that God is Good and God is Great. This morning we will look at what God has to say about His Sovereignty, His Goodness and His Greatness.

*“Let it be said loud and clear that nothing you are about to hear, as paradoxical as it may seem to our finite minds, contradicts the real moral responsibility that humans and angels and demons have to do what God commands. God has given us a will. How we use it makes our eternal difference.”*

*John Piper*

Isaiah 46:5 “To whom will you liken me and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be alike?

Isaiah 46:9 remember the former things of old; for **I am God**, and **there is no other; I am God**, and **there is none like me**,

Isaiah 46:10 **declaring the end from the beginning** and from ancient times **things not yet done**, saying, ‘**My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.**’

Isaiah 46:11 calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. **I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.**

Proverbs 16:33 **The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.**

Matthew 10:29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? **And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.**

Matthew 10:30 But **even the hairs of your head are all numbered.**

Jonah 1:17 **And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah.** And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah 4:6 Now the **LORD God appointed a plant and made it come up** over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant.

Jonah 4:7 But when dawn came up the next day, **God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered.**

Isaiah 40:25 **To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him?** says the Holy One.

Isaiah 40:26 Lift up your eyes on high and see: **who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name, by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power not one is missing.**

Job 37:11 **He loads the thick cloud with moisture; the clouds scatter his lightning.**

Job 37:12 **They turn around and around by his guidance, to accomplish all that he commands them on the face of the habitable world.**

Job 37:13 **Whether for correction or for his land or for love, he causes it to happen.**

Mark 4:39 And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, **“Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.**

Amos 3:6 **Is a trumpet blown in a city, and the people are not afraid? Does disaster come to a city, unless the LORD has done it?**

Exodus 4:11 Then the LORD said to him, **“Who has made man’s mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?”**

John 9:1 As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth.

John 9:2 And his disciples asked him, **“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”**

John 9:3 Jesus answered, **“It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.**

James 4:13 Come now, you who say, **“Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”—**

James 4:14 **yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring.** What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

James 4:15 Instead you ought to say, **“If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”**

Job 42:2 **“I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.**

Isaiah 14:24 The LORD of hosts has sworn: **“As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand,**

Isaiah 14:27 **For the LORD of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back?**

Daniel 2:21 He changes times and seasons; **he removes kings and sets up kings;** he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;

1Kings 22:27 and say, ‘Thus says the king, **“Put this fellow in prison and feed him meager rations of bread and water, until I come in peace.”**’”

1Kings 22:28 And Micaiah said, **“If you return in peace, the LORD has not spoken by me.”** And he said, **“Hear, all you peoples!”**

1Kings 22:29 So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramoth-gilead.

1Kings 22:30 And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, **“I will disguise myself and go into battle, but you wear your robes.”** And the king of Israel disguised himself and went into battle.

1Kings 22:31 Now the king of Syria had commanded the thirty-two captains of his chariots, **“Fight with neither small nor great, but only with the king of Israel.”**

1Kings 22:32 And when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, they said, **“It is surely the king of Israel.”** So they turned to fight against him. And Jehoshaphat cried out.

1Kings 22:33 And when the captains of the chariots saw that it was not the king of Israel, they turned back from pursuing him.

1Kings 22:34 But a certain man drew his bow at random and struck the king of Israel between the scale armor and the breastplate. Therefore he said to the driver of his chariot, **“Turn around and carry me out of the battle, for I am wounded.”**

Proverbs 21:1 The king’s heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; **he turns it wherever he will.**

Psalms 33:10 **The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples.**

**Psalms 33:11 The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.**

“First, we have to recognize that the problem of tragedy, injustice and suffering is a problem for everyone no matter what their beliefs are. Now, if you believe in God and for the first time experience or see horrendous evil, you rightly believe that that is a problem for your belief in God, and you’re right – and you say, “How could a good and powerful God allow something like this to happen?”

But it’s a mistake (though a very understandable mistake) to think that if you abandon your belief in God it somehow is going to make the problem easier to handle. Dr Martin Luther King, Jr., in his Letter from Birmingham Jail says that if there was no higher divine Law, there would be no way to tell if a particular human law was unjust or not. So think. If there is no God or higher divine Law and the material universe is all there is, then violence is perfectly natural—the strong eating the weak! And yet somehow, we still feel this isn’t the way things ought to be. Why not? Now I’m not going to get philosophical at a time like this. I’m just trying to make the point that the problem of injustice and suffering is a problem for belief in God but it is also a problem for disbelief in God---for any set of beliefs. So abandoning belief in God does not really help in the face of it. OK, then what will?”

“But it is on the Cross that we see the ultimate wonder. On the cross we sufferers finally see, to our shock that God now knows too what it is to lose a loved one in an unjust attack. And so you see what this means? John Stott puts it this way: “I could never myself believe in God if it were not for the Cross. In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it?” Do you see what this means? Yes, we don’t know the reason God allows evil and suffering to continue, but we know what the reason isn’t, what it can’t be. It can’t be that he doesn’t love us! It can’t be that he doesn’t care. God so loved us and hates suffering that he was willing to come down and get involved in it.

**Tim Keller, 5th anniversary of 9/11 memorial**

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

**Acts 4:27 for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,**

**Acts 4:28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.**

Colossians 1:17 And He (Jesus) is before all things, and in Him (Jesus) **all things hold together.**

Matthew 27:38 Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

Acts 2:23 this Jesus, **delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God,** you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, **yet he opened not his mouth;** like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, **so he opened not his mouth.**

**“It is finished,”** and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

**“Peace! Be still!”** And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

1 Peter 5:7 casting all your anxieties on him, because **he cares for you.**

Genesis 50:20 As for you, **you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good,** to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

**God is Great, God is Good;**

Estimated 200 Billion Galaxies

Milky Way is 120,000 light years in diameter.

1 light year is = 6 trillion miles

Earth is 7,926 miles in diameter

Population

Estimated total of all human beings that have ever lived: 108 billion  
Population Reference Bureau

Current world population: 7 billion

Current US: 314 million

Texas: 26 million

Dallas: 1.2 million

Vineyard class 80

