

God's Sovereignty

1. Sovereignty is God's rule over all reality.
 - a. God is in control of all things.
 - b. God is in charge of all things.
 - c. God governs all things.
2. Sovereignty is God's right to control all things. This is based on:
 - a. God is **creator** of all things
 - i. God is eternal.
 1. The world was not made out of God, but by God out of nothing.
 2. The world was made along with the creation of time. The world was not made IN time.
 3. It was not a creation IN time, but a creation OF time.
 4. Time begins with creation.
 - ii. God is to the world what a painter is to a painting.
 1. God (the artist) is manifest in his creation (art), but he is also beyond it.
 2. God created the world and manifests himself in it:
"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork." – Psalm 19:1
 - iii. Creation and created things cannot create. They only reduplicate.
The secondary cause (creation) cannot behave as the primary cause (creator)
 - b. God's **preservation** allows creation to continue to be
 - c. God's **dominion** is God's control of all things
 - d. God's **providence** is the means by which God controls all things.
 - i. "Providence" comes from two Latin words:
 1. *Pro* = "before"
 2. *Video* = "see"
 - ii. Refers to "foresight" or the careful arrangement prepared before hand for the accomplishment of predetermined ends.

CREATION = how the world exists, or came to be PRESERVATION = how the world continues, or continues to be PROVIDENCE = how the world is controlled, or direction of being

- e. God has the right and power to control all things. This means God is sovereign.

"I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted."

-Job 42:2

"Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases."

-Psalm 115:3

"Whatever the Lord pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps."

-Psalm 135:6

Hebrews 1:3 – “He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power”

Colossians 1:17 – “And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

Revelation 4:11 – “They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, by your will they existed and were created.” “

1 Corinthians 8:5-6 – “For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”— yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.”

Romans 11:36 – “For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen”

Psalm 8:1 – “O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.”

Psalm 57:5 – “Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!”

Psalm 97:9 – “For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.”

Psalm 108:5 – “Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!”

God Owns All

Psalm 24:1-2 – “The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas established it upon the rivers.

Psalm 50:10 – “For every beast of the forest is mine, cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine.

1 Chronicles 29:14 – David said, “But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.”

1 Corinthians 6:19 – “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”

James 1:17-18 – “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Deuteronomy 32:39 – “See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

God Rules All

Isaiah 6:1 – “In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.”

Psalms 48:2 – “Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God! His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King.”

Psalms 29:10 – “The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.”

Psalms 10:16 – “The Lord is king forever and ever; the nations perish from his land.”

Psalms 24:8 – “Who is this King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, Lord, mighty in battle!”

1 Chronicles 29:11-12 – David said, “Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.”

Kings Are Under God's Control

Proverbs 21:1 – “The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will.”

Revelation 19:16 – “On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.”

Human Events – everything done by human power is done under God's power

Daniel 4:17 – Nebuchadnezzar explaining his dream to Daniel,

“Let his mind be changed from a man's, and let a beast's mind be given to him; and let seven periods of time pass over him. The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.’ “

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, that I will break the Assyrian in my land, on my mountains trample him underfoot; and his yoke shall depart from them, and his burden from their shoulder.”

This is the purpose that is purposed concerning the whole earth, and this is the hand that is stretched out over all the nations. For the Lord of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back? ”

Isaiah 55:10-11 – “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

Angels Under God's Sovereign Rule

Colossians 1:15-17 – “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

1 Kings 22:19-23 – “And Micaiah said, “Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing beside him on his right hand and on his left; and the Lord said, ‘Who will entice Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?’ And one said one thing, and another said another. Then a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord, saying, ‘I will entice him.’ And the Lord said to him, ‘By what means?’ And he said, ‘I will go out, and will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.’ And he said, ‘You are to entice him, and you shall succeed; go out and do so.’ Now therefore behold, the Lord has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets; the Lord has declared disaster for you.”

Job 1:6-7 – “Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. The Lord said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.”

Job 2:1 – “Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. 2 And the Lord said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.”

Nehemiah 9:6 – “You are the Lord, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.”

Revelation 4:8 -11– “And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,

“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!”

And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

“Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created.”

Evil Angels Under God’s Control

Ephesians 1:16-21 – “I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Philippians 2:9-11 – “Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Satan Under God’s Authority

Job 1:6, 10 – “

Job 2:1 – “

Revelation 20:1-3 – “Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit[a] and a great chain. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.”

Revelation 12:9 – “And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.”

Jude 6 – “And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day.”

Matthew 8:29 – “And behold, they cried out, “What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?”

Colossians 2:15 – “God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”

Revelation 12:12 – “Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

1 Peter 5:8-11 – “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

Hebrews 2:14 – “Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.”

1 John 3:8 – “Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.”

Revelation 20:10 – “...and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”