

**GOD IS: SOVEREIGN ONE**

In today's world, you may be most familiar with the word "sovereign" as nation-states declare their right to govern their own affairs. In several lands, the sovereign was a monarch whose word was law. In the Bible, God appears as sovereign over all things, not just spiritual realms but every aspect of the physical world. On Memorial Day we remember those who gave their lives for the freedom of our sovereign nation. We do well to remember that God is 'The Sovereign' over all the universe - every nation and person.

**1- God is sovereign in His RIGHTEOUS REIGN.** God by definition exists as supreme in power and authority; both right and might. Psalm 93 declares "*The LORD reigns.*" 1 Timothy 6:15 lauds "*He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen!*" Psalm 33:4 proclaims "*the word of the LORD is upright, and all His work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice, and the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.*" God's rule extends from His righteous character, and is revealed as He creates and sustains all things, "*according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will*" (Ephesians 1:11). Isaiah 46:9-11 says, "*I am God, and there is no other, declaring the end from the beginning. My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all My purpose. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass.*"

**2- God is sovereign in His DIVINE DETERMINATION.** He always accomplishes the ultimate purpose of His will. Psalm 33:8-11 says, "*Let all the earth fear the LORD; for He spoke and it came to be. The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing. He frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations.*" God's righteous divine decrees overrule every human activity. Not just on a national scale, but personally. Especially in salvation. Ephesians 1:4 says, "*He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us for adoption to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the beloved.*" God is the architect of salvation: arranged by the Father, accomplished by the Son, and applied by the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:27-30 shows how He works together all things for the salvation of His people.

**3- God is sovereign in His COMPLETE CONTROL.** Through His providence, God maintains ultimate governance over all things in heaven and earth, with particular attention to His called-out people. Psalm 33:12 says, "*Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom He has chosen as His heritage! The LORD looks down from heaven and sees all the children of man; from where He sits enthroned He looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, He who fashions the hearts of them all, and observes all their deeds. The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength, the war horse is a false hope for salvation, by its great strength it cannot rescue.*" God works on behalf of His people, and His ultimate focus is on "union with Christ" of all who are saved. From eternity past, God has ordained what transpires today and tomorrow. He is working out His plan! He is sovereign in salvation, so that all who call upon Christ as Lord are empowered to live transformed lives.

**4- God is sovereign in His SAVED SAINTS.** Those who have been set free from sin, by believing in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, have received ultimate freedom to glorify Him in their lives. Psalm 33:18 says, "*Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, who hope in His steadfast love, that He may deliver their souls from death and keep them alive in famine. Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in Him, because we trust in His holy name. Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in You.*" God's sovereignty extends to your daily life.

RC Sproul says, "most Christians salute the sovereignty of God, but believe in the sovereignty of man." But you can't be double-minded - saying your will overrides God's, then blaming Him for anything. His sovereignty extends from eternity past to eternity future. If you are in Christ, it is by grace through faith, the gift of God, who works all things together for believers - for your good and for His glory. Romans 8:31-39 expresses how you can put total trust in Him. He guides and preserves. As you trust and obey Him, He transforms you here, by His truth and power - for eternity in heaven, to glorify Him forever!