

God Is **Effectively** Sovereign:

- **Prov. 21:30; 16:9; 19:21**

- **Ps. 33:11; 115:3; 135:6**

- Wherever is under His sovereignty will go according to plan

- He may appear to be losing

- He may appear to be slow

- BUT He always has reasons for that

- Think of the plagues in Egypt

- Was He trying to convince Pharaoh to let His people go?

- Was He every struggling to get His point across?

Over All Creation

- He is sovereign over the weather

- Psalm 65:9-11; 135:6-7

- Notice how intimately involved He is

- This language does not allow us to see God as allowing certain weather to happen

- God raises the sun

- Matt. 5:45

- God feeds birds

- Matt. 6:26

- God clothes the lilies

- Matt. 6:28-30

- God accounts for fallen sparrows and numbers the hair on our head

- Matt. 8:23-27

- Mother nature and coincidence play no role in life

- This is God's world, and His purposes stand

Over All **History**

- Think of all that has happened in history
- Think of all that COULD happen at any given moment
- Now think of all the prophecies and purposes of God that have come to pass
- How can this happen unless He is sovereign over both there BIG and SMALL picture
 - Almost all Christians agree God is sovereign over the big things
 - It is impossible to be sovereign over the big without the small
- He rules all the nations
 - **Psalm 33:10-11**
- There are so many examples of this, just listen
 - If you want the verses, you can get the notes from me or online
 - Just let all of this weigh on you
- He had Joseph sold into slavery
 - This was to eventually preserve Israel
 - But it also greatly influenced all the nation of the earth
 - Gen. 41:16, 28, 32; 45:5-8; 50:20
- Think of how “history-controlling” the Exodus was
- The taking of the Promised Land
 - God literally took land from one people
 - He promised to give it to another
 - As a form of judgment, He would remove them and bring another in
 - Ex. 23:27; Deut. 2:25; Gen. 35:5; Josh. 21:44-45
- He has personally protected Israel from being destroyed
 - He has even given them victories in war
 - He also decides when they lose battles and wars
 - Which means He determines when others will win and lose
 - Micah 4:12; Prov. 21:31
 - Josh. 7:11-12; Isa. 10:5-12; 14:24-27; 37:26; Hab. 1:6-11
 - Jer. 29:11-14; 30:4-24; 51:11
- He raises up and gets rid of Kings
 - Dan. 2:21; 4:34-35
 - Isa. 44:28; 45:1-13; Ezra 1:2-4; Isa. 44:28 Ezra 1:1
- He was responsible for when Jesus was born and died
 - Gal. 4:4-5; Acts 2:23-24; 3:18; 4:27-28; 13:27; Luke 22:22
- He has determined Jesus’s return
 - Matt. 24:36
- Again, all of this shows God is sovereign over all history

Over All People

- It's one thing to affirm God controls all creation and all history
- It gets to a deeper level when you put faces to His sovereignty

- **Jeremiah 1:5**

- Think of all God had to be in control of to know HIM before birth
- All the break-ups / divorces / marriages / etc...
- It also hits a new level when the face you think of under God's sovereignty is yours
- REMEMBER: He chose us and YOU before creation
- Impossible if He isn't running the show
- How did He know there would be a YOU

- **Eph. 1:3-4**

- Listen to all the personal references in this Psalm

- **Psalm 139**

- God is sovereign over all people and intimately involved in all lives

Over All Decisions

- This will hopefully make more sense now that we have discussed compatibilism
- What we are trying to affirm is that:
 - Our decisions are truly our decisions
 - AND they are never independent of God's sovereignty
- Who sold Joseph into slavery?
- God has you exactly where you are because of innumerable decisions made by you and others
- Even the free decisions of how Jesus died
 - Why wasn't Jesus stoned to death like He should have been?
- Remember how everything you do is connected to your heart
 - Then listen to **Prov. 21:1**
- This is true of all people
 - Prov. 16:1, 9; 19:21
 - **Ex. 34:24**
- Reading these texts should not leave you with the idea that God just knows the future because He looks ahead
- God is unfolding His purposes in history, and all are revealing more and more of His glory

Over All Sins

- This is a bit of a re-cap from last week
 - We talked mainly about how this can be true last week
 - Now we want to just make it clear that it is true
- God kept the pagan king from sinning
 - **Gen. 20:6**
- Remember David's numbering of his army
 - God even says He will discipline David, and it involves sin
 - **2 Sam. 12:7-15; 16:21-22**
- Jesus spoke of this when He explained the purpose of His parables
 - **Mark 4:10-12**
- Again, He decrees all things for good purposes
 - If you are a Christian, there is nothing that is not for your eternal good and
His glory

Over All Salvation

- God intervenes and works on your behalf

- **Eph. 2:1-10**

- He was doing this before you were even born

- Eph. 1:4-6

- 2 Tim. 1:9

- **Acts 13:48**

- Again, compatibilism says there is a real choice made by the person

- They choose what they most deeply want to

- But we also affirm that we must credit any good choice to the work of God's grace in our lives

- Our repentance is credited to God

- **2 Tim. 2:25**

- Our faith is credited to God

- **Eph. 2:8-9**

- Our sanctification is credited to God

- **Phil. 2:13**

- You are saved because of God's gracious work in your life

- You are being sanctified because of God's gracious work in your life

- You will remain saved for all eternity because of God's gracious work in your life

- TRUST HIM AND REST IN HIM

- Know His promises, trust them, and don't let go!

Our Response

- So we have seen a small sampling of the fact that God is effectively sovereign

over:

- All Creation

- All History

- All People

- All Decisions

- All Sins

- All Salvation

- One appropriate response to this is found in **Rom. 11:33-36**