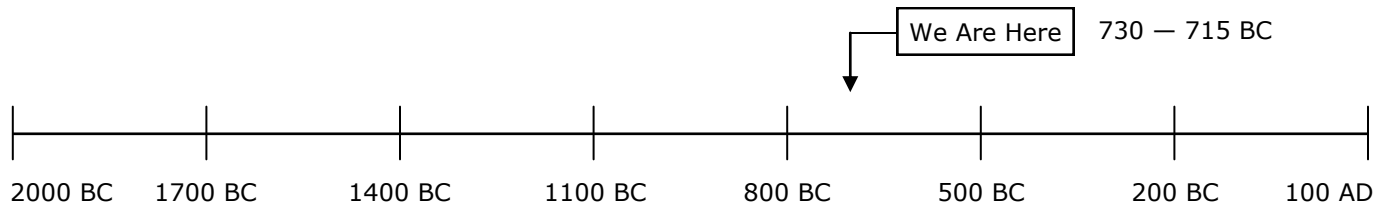


The Sovereignty of God

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Week 27: July 2-8 — *Various Psalms and Proverbs*

51.5% Complete — 176 Days to Go



Helpful Resources

Overview of Bible History (p.37)

Making Sense of It All

- The Big Picture

While it is difficult to find a common denominator among a selection of random texts, an obvious theme surfaced this week, the incredible *sovereignty of God*. Note these passages:

"Who but God goes up to heaven and comes back down? Who holds the wind in His fists? Who wraps up the oceans in His cloak?" *Proverbs 30:4*

"If we had turned away from worshiping our God or spread our hands in prayer to foreign gods, God would surely have known it, for He knows the secrets of our heart." *Ps. 44:20, 21*

"Your throne, O God, endures forever..." *Psalms 45:6*

"Be silent and know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation and throughout the world." *Psalms 46:10*

"God is the King over all the earth. He reigns above the nations, sitting on His royal throne, and all the kings of the earth belong to Him. He is highly honored everywhere." *Psalms 47:7-9*

"The Lord is King... His throne has been established from everlasting. The mighty oceans have roared... but the Lord above is mightier than these. His decrees cannot be changed." *Psalms 93*

"The Lord is a great God, the great King above all gods. He owns the depths of the earth, and even the mightiest mountains are His." *Psalms 95:3, 4*

"The gods of other nations are merely idols, but the Lord made the heavens!" *Psalms 96:5*

"The Lord is King! He is high over all the earth; He is exalted above all the gods." *Ps. 97:1,9*

"The Lord is King, and He sits supreme above all the nations." *Psalms 99:1, 2*

"O Lord, what a variety of things You have made! In wisdom you have made them all, and every one of these depends on You..." *Psalms 104:24, 27*

What is meant by the sovereignty of God anyway? Webster's *1828 Dictionary* defines sovereignty as being **"supreme or highest in power, chief or predominant, superior to all others."** Then, as the 1828 is known for, Webster includes this statement: "Absolute sovereignty belongs to God only." The sovereignty of God refers to His sole governorship of His creation, as He sees fit, for His good. Contained within the truth of His sovereignty are some key qualities of His nature: His independence, His eternal state, His omnipresence, His omniscience, His omnipotence, and His providence.

Let's look at these qualities (definitions are from Wayne Grudem).

God's Independence: He is self-existent and does not depend on anything or anyone to exist or to govern. He is the Absolute Monarch (*Acts 17:24,25; Job 41:11; Ps. 50:10-12*).

God's Eternal State: Since God is independent of creation, He was never created but He has always been. All things came into being because of Him (*Rev. 4:11; John 1:3; Romans 11:35, 36; 1 Cor. 8:6; Ps. 90:2*). Since God has no beginning, He is not bound by time.

God's Omnipresence: Just as God is unlimited with respect to time, so God is unlimited with respect to space. God does not have size dimensions, and He is present at every point of space with His whole being (*Jer. 23:23,24; Ps. 139:7-10; Isa. 66:1, 2; Acts 7:48*).

God's Omniscience: God fully knows all things actual and possible. He knows all that exists, all that happens, and all that might happen; He knows the end from the beginning, and He never learns anything (*Job 28:24; 37:16; 1 John 3:20; 1 Cor. 2:10, 11; Heb. 4:13*).

God's Omnipotence: God is able to do all that He wills, save that it does not contradict His divine nature (*Gen. 18:14; Jer. 32:17, 27; Matt. 19:26; Eph. 3:20; Luke 1:37; 2 Cor. 6:18*).

God's Providence: In His perfect wisdom, God has a purpose for all that He plans and does, and He has the sovereignty to govern or direct all things to accomplish those purposes (*Gen. 50:20; Ps. 103:19; Daniel 4:35; Rom. 8:28; 11:36*).

- Personal Application
 1. **A Healthy Fear:** A study of God's sovereignty will prompt a healthy fear of Him; we should be sobered by the fact that all that we do is in His view. We are accountable to Him for every action, word, thought, and intention of our hearts; He knows them all.
 2. **A Happy Faith:** On the flipside of God's sovereignty is the assurance that He is faithful and can be trusted. He is in control of all things, the major and miniscule events of life. He has a plan and a purpose; we should trust Him and find peace.
 3. **A Humble Heart:** When we begin to recognize all that God is, we will be humbled, for as awesome as He is, He considers us His prize creation. Despite His independence of creation, His authority, and His incomparable nature, He chose to love us. The Sovereign desires us to be with Him in eternity. The One who does not need us wants us, and the One who has control over us cares for us, and we deserve none of His benefits.

[Challenge: find out how many times the words "His unfailing love" appear in *Psalms*.]

The Bottom Line

Understanding the *sovereignty* of God develops a healthy *fear*, a happy *faith*, and a *humble* heart.

Questions to Consider

1. Read again *Psalms 91* and *104*. What aspects of God's sovereignty are evident here?
2. What about God's sovereignty means most to you? How does it cause you to respond?
3. Are there any aspects of God's sovereignty with which you struggle? Explain why.
4. After a thorough investigation into God's sovereignty, how should you live?