

## The Sovereignty of God In Salvation: Our Response: Part 5 – Lesson 3

### The Sovereign King

God made the world by His own power out of nothing and is even now sustaining everything by His powerful Word. God is *the Sovereign King* above all earthly and heavenly powers and authorities.

*Psalm 103:19:* The LORD has established His throne in the heavens; And **His sovereignty rules over all.**

God possesses *absolute authoritative dominion* over all things. That's why He is said to sit on a *"throne in the heavens."* Scripture affirms the logical connection between God's creation of the universe and His control over it. It tells us that *God not only controls nature and history, but also sustains the entire universe by His power. He orders the events of His entire creation to accomplish His purpose and plans.* Friends, we must understand that God rules the world in such an absolute way that *every event* occurs at His express purpose and will and by His power.

*Psalms 47:7-8:* <sup>7</sup>For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with a skillful psalm.

<sup>8</sup>**God reigns over the nations,** God sits on His holy throne.

*Acts 17:22-28:* <sup>22</sup>And Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. <sup>23</sup>For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' What therefore you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>**The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is the Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; <sup>25</sup>neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things; <sup>26</sup>and He made from one every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, **having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation,** <sup>27</sup>that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; <sup>28</sup>for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His offspring.'"**

He is *"the Lord of Heaven and Earth"* (Acts 17:24) who permits, indeed decrees whatsoever comes to pass in the world (**THE DECREES OF GOD**). Although there is much evil in the world, which God hates, He allows and uses it to achieve His eternal purposes which will come to pass.

*Psalm 135:5-6:* <sup>5</sup>For I know that **the LORD is great, And that our Lord is above all gods. <sup>6</sup>Whatever the LORD pleases, He does,** In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps.

God not only permits, but has ordained, the events of human history from eternity past (**Foreordination**). Furthermore, He is *actively involved* in bringing them to pass (**Providence**), fulfilling all of His plans and purposes.

*Proverbs 16:4:* **The LORD has made everything for its own purpose,** Even the wicked for the day of evil.

It is *unthinkable* that God's divine purpose could meet with frustration. Sovereignty is an essential characteristic of Deity. Failure of God's purpose would be failure of His sovereignty. Failure of His sovereignty would negate His deity. Scripture is very clear about this.

*Psalm 103:19:* The Lord has established His throne in the heavens; **and His sovereignty rules over all.**

**Psalm 47:7-8:** <sup>7</sup>For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with a skillful psalm.  
<sup>8</sup>God reigns over the nations, God sits on His holy throne.

**Daniel 4:17:** This sentence is by the decree of the angelic watchers, And the decision is a command of the holy ones, In order the the living may know That **the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and bestows it on whom He wishes**, And sets it over the lowliest of men.

**Ephesians 1:11-12:** In Him <sup>11</sup>also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined **according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will**, <sup>12</sup>to the end that we who lwere the first to hope in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

God’s absolute control over all events and circumstances underlies everything in the Bible. The Bible reveals that God is providentially working out His will to accomplish His purposes for the display of His glory, name and power! God is bringing His world to an *expected end*—the end He ordained in eternity past. At His appointed time, all earthly powers and authorities will be brought into subjection to His sovereign authority, His purposes will be accomplished, and all will rest forever in the Kingdom of God!

**Isaiah 46:9-11:** <sup>9</sup>Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, <sup>10</sup>**Declaring the end from the beginning** And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, **“My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure”**; <sup>11</sup>Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country. **Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it.**

**Question #222:** Thoughtfully reread the Scripture passages listed above under “The Sovereign King.” Then describe in your own words God’s relationship to everything in creation. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Question #223:** How does His relationship to everything in creation impact you personally? \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Blessed Assurance**

Just as God saved us according to His kind intention by drawing us to Himself and causing us to be born again, He will surely see us through to the end and bring us safely to heaven! Jesus has secured salvation for all who respond to the gospel by repenting of their sins and placing their faith in Christ! He has opened the door to God’s presence by meeting the demands of His holy justice. No wrath remains for those who are in Christ; all of God’s wrath against all the sin of everyone who will ever be saved has been poured out on Christ! His work on our behalf has secured our salvation.

**Isaiah 53:4-5:** <sup>4</sup>Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But **He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him**, And by His scourging we are healed.

**Romans 8:1-2:** <sup>1</sup>There is therefore **now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.** <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

We have assurance because Christ's work is perfect. For this, we praise God! Our mediator (priest) stands between us and God. He is the lamb sacrificed to cover our sins. Dear friends, since God sacrificed His own Son for us, He will bring us safely to Heaven. He has made us joint heirs with Christ of His eternal inheritance. All that is Christ's is now ours as well. ***This is because the work of Christ in securing our salvation is perfect.*** He is a perfect priest and the complete sacrifice, who paid the full price for our sins. Christ was sent by the Father to do His perfect will in saving the elect. The life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ perfectly accomplished the will of God in redemption.

**Ephesians 1:7-8:** <sup>7</sup>**In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses,** according to the riches of His grace, <sup>8</sup>which He lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight

**Hebrews 10:14:** For **by one offering He has perfected for all time** those who are sanctified.

**Hebrews 10:19-25:** <sup>19</sup>Since therefore, brethren, **we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,** <sup>20</sup>by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>**let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith,** having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us **hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;** <sup>24</sup>and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup>not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.

**Colossians 1:21-22:** <sup>21</sup>And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, <sup>22</sup>yet **He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach**

Simply believing these scriptural truths equips us to **rest assured** that Heaven is ours, **wholly** because of what Christ has done!

**Question #224:** From the Scripture passages above relating to "Blessed Assurance," write out specific words and phrases that reveal the basis of our assurance that our salvation is eternally secure and cannot be taken away from us or forfeited by our own actions. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Question #225:** Describe your personal response to this assurance. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Peace and Rest**

Knowing that God is Sovereign affords us great peace!

**Romans 8:31:** What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who is against us?**

God controls nature and history. He is the Lord of time and eternity. He is the all-knowing, all-powerful King of Heaven. What could take Him by surprise or prevent Him from blessing His people? His eye is on the sparrow; how much more the sons and daughters He loves.

**Romans 8:38-39:** <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, **nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God,** which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Since God has done all this for us in Christ Jesus our Lord, **we can and should rest in Him,** knowing that He delights to give us eternal life and work all things for our good. His promises give us rest and great peace!

**Psalm 119:165:** **Those who love Thy law have great peace,** And nothing causes them to stumble.

**Isaiah 26:3-4:** <sup>3</sup>**The steadfast of mind Thou wilt keep in perfect peace, Because he trusts in Thee.** <sup>4</sup>Trust in the LORD forever, For in GOD the LORD, we have an everlasting Rock.

Jesus often commands fearful saints, **“Do not be afraid,”** and then assures them of His presence with them. Indeed we who love God have nothing to fear, because everything will work for our *ultimate good.*

**Luke 12:32:** **Do not be afraid** , little flock, **for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.**

Remember that God in His providence is ruling over every detail of your life. He allows only what He has designed for your good and His glory. Therefore dear Christian, He invites you to rest in His Son Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 11:28-30:** <sup>28</sup>Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and **I will give you rest.** <sup>29</sup>Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and **you shall find rest for your souls.** <sup>30</sup>For My yoke is easy, and My load is light.

**Question #226:** On what basis do Christians experience peace and rest in this life? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Question #227:** Are you currently experiencing this peace and rest? \_\_\_\_\_  
If not, what is hindering you from experiencing it? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Thanksgiving and Praise

Dear friends, consider how we ought to be thankful for God’s goodness to us. God has promised to ultimately work all things in our lives for our good. He went so far as to give His own Son for us! Will He not also give us everything we need?

**Romans 8:31-32:** <sup>31</sup>What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who is against us?** <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, **how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?**

If God will give His people a Kingdom when they die, will He not give them daily bread while they live? If Jesus suffered and died to bring me to Himself, will He not also hear my cry for help? Of course He will! Even more than that, He has given us eternal life and promised that we will bask in His glory forever in Heaven. What more could we ask from the good hand of God! It is certainly fitting for God’s saints to praise and thank Him who gives them life and breath!

**Psalm 50:23: He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me;** And to him who orders his way aright I shall show the salvation of God.

Those who know the goodness of God respond in high praise to our King. Thanksgiving is the lifeblood of every true saint. Praise is the garment that fits handsomely on our backs.

**Psalm 145:9-10: <sup>9</sup>The LORD is good to all, And His mercies are over all His works.**

**<sup>10</sup>All Thy works shall give thanks to Thee, O LORD, And Thy godly ones shall bless Thee.**

Scripture affirms that the mouths of the wicked are filled with grumbling, murmuring, and complaining. The wicked cannot praise God, neither are they thankful. The poison of asps is under their tongues, and their mouths profane the name of God. The saints of God stand in stark contrast!

**Romans 3:13-14: <sup>13</sup>Their throat is an open grave, With their tongues they keep deceiving, The poison of asps is under their lips; <sup>14</sup>Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.**

**Psalm 33:1-5: <sup>1</sup>Sing for joy in the LORD, O you righteous ones; Praise is becoming to the upright. <sup>2</sup>Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; Sing praises to Him with a harp of ten strings. <sup>3</sup>Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy.**

**<sup>4</sup>For the word of the LORD is upright; And all His work is done in faithfulness. <sup>5</sup>He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the lovingkindness of the LORD.**

Let us therefore give God the thanksgiving and praise which is due to Him. No matter what cup He gives us to drink, no matter what bitterness of soul should afflict us, no matter what great trial befalls us—may we stand in the company of joyous saints, giving God glorious praise, knowing that He gives only what is for our good! So shall we do His good will of giving Him thanks in every circumstance.

**Ephesians 5:18-21: <sup>18</sup>And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; <sup>20</sup>always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; <sup>21</sup>and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: <sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing; <sup>18</sup>in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**

**Question #228:** Write a brief prayer of thanksgiving and praise for the truths you have learned in this study. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Question #229:** With whom might you share what you learned so they can rejoice with you? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Notes:**

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