

"After nineteen centuries of Gospel preaching, Christ is still "despised and rejected of men." Worse still, He (the Christ of Scripture) is proclaimed and magnified by very few. In the majority of modern pulpits He is dishonored and disowned. Despite frantic efforts to attract the crowds, the majority of the churches are being emptied rather than filled. And what of the great masses of non-church goers? In the light of Scripture we are compelled to believe that the "many" are on the Broad Road that leadeth to destruction, and that only "few" are on the Narrow Way that leadeth unto life. Many are declaring that Christianity is a failure, and despair is settling on many faces. Not a few of the Lord's own people are bewildered, and their faith is being severely tried. And what of God? Does He see and hear? Is He impotent or indifferent? A number of those who are regarded as leaders of Christian-thought told us that God could not help the coming of the late awful War, and that He was unable to bring about its termination. It was said, and said openly, that conditions were beyond God's control. Do these things look as though God were ruling the world?" AW Pink, The Sovereignty of GOD

"Nothing in the scheme of Christian doctrine is so offensive to the secular spirit or so preposterous to the unbelieving mind as to propose that God has a plan for the whole universe down to such minute details as the hairs on one's head or the death of a sparrow and is unfailingly executing the same." Robert Duncan Culver, Systematic Theology

### **He Is Sovereign**

*"The Sovereignty of God. What do we mean by this expression? We mean the supremacy of God, the kingship of God, the godhood of God. To say that God is Sovereign is to declare that God is God. To say that God is Sovereign is to declare that He is the Most High, doing according to His will in the army of Heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth, so that none can stay His hand or say unto Him what doest Thou? (Dan. 4:35). To say that God is Sovereign is to declare that He is the Almighty, the Possessor of all power in Heaven and earth, so that none can defeat His counsels, thwart His purpose, or resist His will (Psa. 115:3). To say that God is Sovereign is to declare that He is "The Governor among the nations" (Psa. 22:28), setting up kingdoms, overthrowing empires, and determining the course of dynasties as pleaseth Him best. To say that God is Sovereign is to declare that He is the "Only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords" (1 Tim. 6:15). Such is the God of the Bible." AW Pink, The Sovereignty of God*

### **Is 46:9–10.**

3 Our God is in the heavens;  
he does all that he pleases.- Ps 115:3.  
for I am God, and there is no other;  
I am God, and there is none like me,  
10 declaring the end from the beginning  
and from ancient times things not yet done,  
saying, 'My counsel shall stand,  
and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

**.Pr 16:9.**

9 The heart of man plans his way,  
but the LORD establishes his steps.

**Pr 16:33.**

33 The lot is cast into the lap,  
but its every decision is from the LORD.

**2 Th 2:1–17**

2 Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, 2 not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6 And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, 10 and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 11 Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, 12 in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. 13 But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. 14 To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15 So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter. 16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, 17 comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

Not just acts of sovereign, supernatural power, but his sovereignty is shown in the everyday, what we would call the mundane.

**Ps 147:8–9.**

8 He covers the heavens with clouds;  
he prepares rain for the earth;  
he makes grass grow on the hills.  
9 He gives to the beasts their food,  
and to the young ravens that cry.

**Ec 7:13–14.**

13 Consider the work of God:

who can make straight what he has made crooked?

14 In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.

*“Granted that there is much in this world of sin and suffering which appalls and saddens us; granted that there is much in the providential dealings of God which startle and stagger us; that is no reason why we should unite with the unbelieving worldling who says, “If I were God, I would not allow this or tolerate that,” etc. Better far, in the presence of bewildering mystery, to say with one of old, “I was dumb, I opened not my mouth: because Thou didst it” (Psa. 39:9). Scripture tells us that God’s judgments are “unsearchable,” and His ways “past finding out” (Rom. 11:33). It must be so if faith is to be tested, confidence in His wisdom and righteousness strengthened, and submission to His holy will fostered.”* AW Pink, *The Sovereignty of God*

**He Uses His Sovereignty For His Own Glory**

If God is sovereign, it raises questions for us. Think of the story of the fall of Jericho. A powerful picture of God’s sovereignty. He doesn’t need an army, he is fully capable of bringing an entire city to its knees. But what’s the question- how come he didn’t do that for all the cities after Jericho?

Why? What is our answer for sin and hell? It’s not a comfortable answer for us. Because it’s not really about us, and we hate that. John Piper points out- God Is No Mere Supporting Actor! But what’s the reason God does this? For His Glory.

“God orders all events of things, after the counsel of his will, to his own glory, his glory being the ultimate end of all his actings, and the centre where all the lines of providence meet.” Thomas Watson, “A Body of Divinity

**Psalm 19:1**

1 The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

**Is. 6:3**

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

**Col. 1:16**

16 For by<sup>6</sup> him all things were created, <sup>4</sup>in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether <sup>1</sup>thrones or <sup>2</sup>dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created <sup>9</sup>through him and for him.

**Is. 43:7**

7 everyone who is called by my name,

whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.”

**Pr. 16:4**

4 <sup>2</sup>The Lord has made everything for its purpose,  
even <sup>4</sup>the wicked for the day of trouble.

**Is. 43:20-21**

I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.

**EZ 36.**

But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations where they went. Therefore, say to the house of Israel, “Thus says the Lord God, ‘It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went. And I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord,’” declares the Lord God, “when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight. -

**So, What about Hell and Sin?**

**Matthew 10:28**

“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

**Re 21:22–23.**

22 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

19 You will say to me then, “Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?” 20 But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?” 21 Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? 22 What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory— 24 even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

- Ro 9:19–24.

*Paul says there that God aims to display his wrath and his power. His goal is that the full range of his perfections be known. I think the display of God’s perfections is the ultimate goal of the universe. God created the universe so that the full range of his perfections, including wrath and*

*power and judgment and justice would be displayed. To do that there is, as it were, a dark backdrop of the history of redemption called the fall and sin. -John Piper*