

WEEK SEVEN

Attributes and Promises of God

Why can we trust God and believe His Promises?

GOD IS SOVEREIGN

“God is not a man, that He should lie,
Nor a son of man, that He should repent.
Has He said, and will He not do?
Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”
Numbers 23:19

“The sovereignty of God may be defined as the exercise of His supremacy...Being infinitely elevated above the highest creature, He is the Most High, Lord of heaven and earth. Subject to none, influenced by none, absolutely independent; God does as He pleases, only as He pleases, always as He pleases. None can thwart Him, none can hinder Him. So His own Word expressly declares: ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure’ (Isa. 46:10); ‘He doeth according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay His hand’ (Dan. 4:35). Divine sovereignty means that God is God in fact, as well as in name, that He is on the Throne of the universe, directing all things, working all things ‘after the counsel of His own will’ (Eph. 1:11).” A. W. Pink

This week spend time reading and meditating on these Scriptures.

God is Sovereign: Psalm 135:5-6; Psalm 115:3; Isaiah 46:9-10; Daniel 4:34-35; Ephesians 1:11; Romans 9:15-21; Romans 8:38-39; 1 Chronicles 29:11; 1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17; Jeremiah 32:17; 1 Chronicles 16:31; Matthew 28:18

If you have time this week, or maybe during the summer, I highly recommend reading again Job 38, 39, 40, 41, and 42:1-6. These chapters give us a glimpse, from God’s own lips, of just how sovereign, and majestic He really is, and how much He loves us! I hope you will read these chapters more than once, and that they will become some of your favorite chapters in the Bible as they have become mine.

As you read and meditate on these Scriptures consider these questions:

What does it mean that God is sovereign?

Do you think of God that way? Why or why not?

Do any of these Scriptures stand out to you or touch your heart?

Is there anything about these Scriptures that you needed to hear this week?

What does knowing that God is sovereign mean to you personally?

What difference could that knowledge make in this world gone mad?

Does A.W. Pink's description of God "Subject to none, influenced by none, absolutely independent; God does as He pleases, only as He pleases, always as He pleases. None can thwart Him, none can hinder Him" give you a new view of God? If yes, how has your view changed?

When you are going through a trial how would this view of God change your perspective of your situation?

Does the sovereignty of God make you feel a bit vulnerable or fearful that you do not control your life or does it give you comfort and peace? Why?

"The presence of hope in the invincible sovereignty of God drives out fear." John Piper

What have you learned about God that you didn't know before?

Do you have a better idea of who God is? In what way?

Being created in God's image, is this an attribute that belongs to God alone, or one that we can reflect as His image-bearers?

How does it help you to see Him "high and lifted up" as it says in Isaiah 6:1?

In what way does this attribute help you to know that God loves you?

Does it make you want to worship Him more often and intentionally?

"When you go through a trial, the sovereignty of God is the pillow upon which you lay your head." C.H. Spurgeon

The Promise for Week Seven

"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."
Ephesians 2:4-7

Is this promise familiar to you?

Spend some time today meditating upon each phrase.

Who is speaking?

There are several promises inside this promise. What are they?

What do these promises mean to you personally?

"Some warp the idea of God's great mercy and love into something that justifies our pride. Some imagine that God loves us *because we are so lovable*. Instead, God's love is so great that it extends even to the unlovely – to the *children of wrath* mentioned in the previous verse.

"Every reason for God's mercy and love is found in Him. We give Him no *reason* to love us, yet in the greatness of His love, He loves us with that great love anyway.

"Therefore, we must stop trying to make ourselves lovable to God, and simply receive His great love while recognizing that we are unworthy of it. This is the *grace secret* of the Christian life."

David Guzik

What do you think is the correlation between knowing that God is sovereign and this promise?

Why is this correlation important?

Are there any parts of this promise that seem impossible? What are they?

How do you know that “with God nothing is impossible” or “all things are possible”? (Luke 1:37; Matthew 19:26)

What are His attributes that come into play and make it more than possible?

Do you spend time trying to make yourself more lovable to God? Why would it be an unnecessary and futile exercise? What does this have to do with the sovereignty of God?

Do you believe this promise? Is there evidence in your life that you are living this promise? Can you trust God to fulfil this promise? Why?

How could you use this promise in your life today?

What have you learned about God, His attributes and His promises, over these past weeks that has impacted you most?

Do you think it has enabled you to trust Him more? Why or why not?

Do you see Him high and lifted up in your view?

How would you answer these questions from Numbers 23:19

“Has He said, and will He not do?

Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”

How will this help you when you are in the midst of a trial you can’t fix, a situation that you cannot see an answer?

“God’s promises are longer than life, broader than sin, deeper than the grave, and higher than the clouds.” C.H. Spurgeon

“We dare not venture, with presumptuous gaze, to penetrate into ‘those secret things which belong unto the Lord our God.’ In all that is fitted, in the consideration of this august theme of the Divine Decrees, to impart encouragement and consolation, let us rejoice; in all that is mysterious and incomprehensible, let us with childlike reverence exclaim, ‘Oh, what a wonderful God we have! How great are his riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his methods! For who can know what the Lord is thinking? Who knows enough to be his counselor? And who could ever give him so much that he would have to pay it back? For everything comes from him; everything exists by his power and is intended for his glory. To him be glory evermore. Amen!’” John MacDuff

“Yours, O LORD, is the greatness,
The power and the glory,
The victory and the majesty;
For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours;
Yours is the kingdom, O LORD,
And You are exalted as head over all.”
1 Chronicles 29:11

Soli Deo Gloria!