

God's sovereignty is evident in the Book of Jonah. God rules over plant and animal creation:

* The Lord prepared for Jonah a great fish. Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights. (*Jonah 1:17*)

* The Lord God prepared a plant and a worm. (*Jonah 4:6-7*)

* God fed Elijah in the Kerith Ravine. (*1 Kings 17:4-6*)

Please proceed to the tract entitled: '*God's Attributes, Qualities and Characteristics!*' to find out more about the awesome God of all creation ...

Scriptural References:

Genesis 19:24-25

Deuteronomy 32:39-43

Joshua 10:12-14

Joshua 11:20

1 Samuel 2:4-10

1 Kings 17:8-24

1 Chronicles 29:11-13

Job 12:10

Psalms 7:9-17

Psalms 71:16

Psalms 115:3

Psalms 135:6-7

Psalms 136

Proverbs 3:32

Proverbs 16:9

Proverbs 19:21

Isaiah 42:8

Isaiah 45:7

Isaiah 46:8-11

Jeremiah 10

Jeremiah 32:17

Ezekiel 38:23

Daniel 1:9,17

Daniel 2:20-23

Daniel 4:16,34-35

Daniel 6

Jonah 1

Jonah 4:5-8

John 5:19-47

John 11:1-44

Romans 1:18-32

Romans 8:28

Romans 9

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Colossians 1:15-20

Revelation 19:6-10

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Supremacy And Authority



How much do you know about the supremacy and authority of God? Is God sovereign over all creation? If so, how does God demonstrate His sovereignty? What does the word 'sovereign' mean?

Definition of the word 'sovereign':

The word 'sovereign' means supremacy in rule, power and authority. In other words, God possesses and exercises supreme authority and control over all creation at all times. God alone has absolute sovereignty over all creation. His power is without limitation. There is nothing He cannot do. He rules for the reason of displaying His mighty power, glory, majesty, holiness, justice, faithfulness, righteousness, wisdom, love and truth. His holiness is displayed in His active opposition to sin; His power is evident in creation; His justice and righteousness in pouring out His mighty wrath upon the wicked, if they do not repent; His glory revealed through miraculous signs; His greatest love demonstrated through the perfect sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of our sins; His faithfulness demonstrated through the fulfillment of His promises; His truth, as revealed in His Word.

God knows everything about us, more than we know ourselves. He has complete freedom to act when He wants, how He wants, in whatever way He wants.

How does God demonstrate His Sovereignty?

* God's *omnipotence* - supreme and unlimited mighty power (*Jeremiah 32:17*), *omnipresence* - present everywhere at all times (*Jeremiah 23:23-24*), and *omniscience* - all knowing, (*Psalms 139*) are instruments of His sovereignty. (Please read tract 'Attributes, Qualities and Characteristics').

* God has given Jesus Christ the authority to execute judgment. Universal and awesome recognition of God is through miraculous signs and wonders. He controls or directs the lives of individuals, events, situations or circumstances.

* God sits enthroned in the heavens, (*Psalms 113:5-6*) and He has the sovereign right to do whatever He pleases (not in an arbitrary way, but according to His own perfect will) in the heavens above, and on the earth below.

* An example of Christ's sovereignty is in the crucifixion and resurrection. Jesus willingly gave His life for us, to set us free from all our sins. No one overpowered Him. Christ defeated Satan, and the whole kingdom of darkness. Jesus said to Pilate, that no one has power over Him, except what was given from heaven. (*John 19:10-11*)

* Christ has priority, pre-eminence and sovereignty over all creation.

* Christ is the firstborn over all creation; and the first to rise from the dead. God raised Jesus Christ from the dead, by His supreme, mighty power.

* 'Firstborn' means that Christ is the divine, royal son of highest privilege, honor and position in God's Kingdom. He is the most exalted of the kings of the earth. (*Colossians 1:15-20; Revelation 1:8*).

* God has foreknowledge. He knows the past, present and future. (*Psalms 139*)

* God's plans and purposes always prevail, that none can oppose Him. (*Job 5:9-16; Psalms 135:6*)

God rules over the physical universe:

* Since God created the universe, He also rules over the physical universe. God created and controls the heavenly bodies, including the sun, moon, planets and starry heavens; earth and sea and all that is in them. (*Jeremiah 31:35; Ezekiel 32:7-8; Joel 2:10; Joel 2:28-31; Acts 2:17-20*)

* God also controls the weather, including thunder, lightning, wind, rain, water, hail, snow, ice, frost, etc. He sends rain to bless the land, and show His goodness and compassion; or withholds rain to curse the land, and show His displeasure, or to discipline and warn people to repent. (*Job 5:10; Psalms 135:7; Amos 5*)

* God changes times and seasons. (*Daniel 2:21*)

God rules over all nations:

* God is sovereign throughout generations, and to eternity, with divine control of history, yet God's will never denies our personal and moral freedom.

* God is in complete control of all creation at all times. He sovereignly rules over all human history, including nations. (*Daniel 2:21*)

* God sets up and deposes kings. (*Daniel 2:21*)

* God destroys kings. (*Psalms 136:17-20*)

* God demonstrates His power over the lives of kings by killing them. (*Psalms 136*)

* He judges nations. (*Psalms 110:6*)

* He makes nations great, and destroys them. (*Job 12:23*)

* God displays His mighty power by pouring out His wrath upon the world. (*Psalms 7:9-17; Zephaniah 3:8*)

* God receives universal recognition, through His miraculous signs and wonders. (*Psalms 106:8*)

* Everything that happens in the world today, is either God's direct intervention, or He consciously allows things or events to happen. If a particular nation is destroyed, it is God's doing; it is not because God is unable to act, or powerless to intervene, nor is it the achievement of anything or anyone else, including any useless idols that any nation worships.

For example, God directly controls the weather, either to bless or to curse the land, to discipline, to rebuke, etc. (Please read tract: 'God controls the weather').

* God alone says He will not give His praise and glory to another. Idols are figments of human imagination, devised by human hands, and are worthless objects of mockery. (*Isaiah 42:8; Isaiah 48:11*) (Please read tract: 'No Idols!')

God rules over individuals:

* The Lord has sovereign intervention in world affairs, as well as the affairs of men, and is sovereign in every life and history.

* God determines, by His sovereign will and power, life and death, prosperity and adversity. He is sovereign over our lives including: birth, career, and death. (*1 Samuel 2; Job 1:21; Psalms 139:13-16*)

* God delivers one from disgrace, to a position of strength and honor. God frequently works contrary to natural anticipations, and brings about amazing, shocking, and unexpected reversals (turnarounds). For example, Daniel in the lions' den. One would naturally assume that Daniel would be torn to pieces by the lions. But God supernaturally protected, rescued and delivered him, by sending an angel who shut the mouths of the lions (tamed them). The whole plan against Daniel then backfires unexpectedly, when Daniel's accusers are thrown in the lions' den. King Darius is pleased, and he sends a decree that everyone is to fear and revere the Most High God of Daniel. Daniel is then held in high esteem in both political regimes. (*Daniel 6*)

* God speaks through dreams and visions. (*Acts 2:17*)

* God rescues and saves. (*Daniel 6:27*)

* God's sovereign grace, direct guidance and intervention in our lives. He governs and guides everything that happens. (*Psalms 48:14; 67:4; 73:24; 139:9-10; Isaiah 58:11*)

* Scripture teaches us that God foreknew those who, by faith, would become His children. (*Ephesians 1:4*)

* Only the Lord can direct one's steps. (*Psalms 119:35; Proverbs 16:9*)

* God humbles and He exalts. (*1 Samuel 2:7*)

* The Lord sends poverty and wealth. (*1 Samuel 2:7-8*)

* God gives wisdom and knowledge. (*Daniel 2:21*)

* We do not belong to ourselves, but to God. (*1 Corinthians 6:18-20*)

* The life of everyone is in God's hands. God kills, and makes alive; He wounds and He also binds up; He injures, but He also heals. Deliverance out of His hand is impossible. (*Job 5:18*)

* God controls fire; it has no effect on His servants. For example, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. (*Daniel 3*)

* God controls men's hearts. For example, Pharaoh. (*Exodus 10*)

* God is sovereign over the wicked. (*Psalms 11:6; Psalms 147:6; Proverbs 16:4*)

* The wicked are under God's judgment. (*Psalms 11:4-7*)

* God thwarts the plans of wicked men. (*Job 5:12-13*)

God kills:

1) The Lord took the life of every single human being on the entire face of the earth, all except Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others, in the flood. The devastating flood was worldwide. There was a powerful contrast between Noah's godly life, and the wickedness, (including rampant violence) at the time. (*Genesis 6:1-22; Genesis 7:1-24*)

2) The Lord killed twenty-three thousand Israelites in one day, for committing sexual immorality. The Israelites also worshiped the false god of the Moabites, called the Baal of Peor. They disobeyed God, and God showed His indignation (righteous anger). (*1 Corinthians 10:8*)

3) The Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone. He overthrew those cities, and killed its inhabitants, because of vile wickedness and moral degradation. Social injustice and sexual perversion, such as homosexuality (sodomy) was rampant. This was a foretaste of the final, eternal punishment in unquenchable fire, in hell, that the wicked will face on the day of judgment. (*Genesis 19:1-29; Ezekiel 16; 2 Peter 2; 3:7; Jude 7*). (Please read tract: 'Hell and Unquenchable Fire!')

God makes alive:

1) God raised Jesus from the dead, by His supreme and mighty power. Christ's body did not see decay, and His physical body was not abandoned to the grave, to decompose. Only Christ is ascended to heaven, where He is exalted at the right hand of the throne of the divine majesty in heaven. (*Acts 2:22-28*)

2) God raises a widow's son at the prayer request of Elijah. Elijah prayed for the child to be raised from the dead, so that God would demonstrate the authenticity and credibility of His Word. (*1 Kings 17:8-24*)

3) Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, whose body had begun to decay, as He was dead four days. Jesus demonstrated His mighty power over death, and that with God all things are possible. Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth. (*John 11:1-44*)