**Readings: Exodus 20:1-17 – Ps. 46 – Eccl. 12:8-14**

**Singing: 266:1-3 – 325:2 – 383:1-5 – 88:1-3 – 423:1. 7**

**The Sovereign and His Subjects**

I. Who is the Sovereign?

II. What is His Sovereignty?

III. What is the extent of His sovereignty?

IV. How do we worship Him as the Sovereign?

**Quote from our inheritance:**

*God wills all created things, not to make Himself perfect (as if He stood in need of them), but to communicate Himself and to manifest His goodness and glory in them. Therefore, since He could be without them (all created things) without any detriment to His happiness, He is said to will them freely.* Francis Turretin

Opening observations on God’s *Supremacy and Sovereignty*

* The details of God’s sovereign control are mostly bewildering
* Multitude of thoughts whirl within the suffering or spectators
* In that context, is it still true as Spurgeon said, *“The most unknown cure for our suffering world is the knowledge of God?”*

**Other Scriptures to consider in connection with God’s Sovereignty**

- Ps. 77:19 *Thy way is in the sea; and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known*

- Ps. 46:10 *Be still and know that I am God!*

- Ps. 115:3 *But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased!*

- Ps. 135:3-6 *Whatever the LORD pleased, that did He in heaven, and in*

*earth, in the seas, and all deep places.*

- I Chr. 29:11 *Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and*

*the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all … that reignest over all.*

- Daniel 4:35 *And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing;*

*and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand or say unto him, What doest thou?*

**I. Who is the Sovereign?**

A. Daniel’s prophecy establishes the truth: *God is Sovereign over all!*

Ps. 47:7 *God is the King of all the earth!*

Is. 66:1 *The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool.*

B. Yet He is not to be compared to *any earthly sovereign*

**II. What is His sovereignty?**

A. God’s sovereignty is *His free exercise of His supremacy*

1. It is His independence to will and to do what He desires

a. Consider Ephesians 1:5b, 6a, 7b, 9b, 11b

b. Matt. 20:15: *Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine*

*own? If thine eye evil because I am good?*

c. admit it: *no attribute stirs so much resistance in us sinners!*

2. God is the *infinite sovereign Potter and Lord of all Creation*

a. He reigns over all *the crooked in life* (Eccl. 7:13)

B. God is sovereign in His *exercise of grace*: Romans 9:13

**Reflection**: *The attribute we resist the most, is our greatest hope!*

**Discussion Questions**

*1. Find three examples of God’s exercise of sovereignty in your own life. How do we generally respond to each?*

*2. Reflect on the statement, “God in His sovereignty generally chose to accomplish His will through our use of the means.” What implications does that for us?*

*3. Discuss Joseph’s response to God’s sovereignty in his life in Gen. 45:5-8 and 50:19-20. What are we to learn from this? How did he come to such a response?*

**Discussion Questions to be used with your children**

*1. What did Satan say Adam and Eve would gain by eating from the forbidden tree?*

*2. Why do we so dislike being ‘commanded to do something?’*

*3. Did God give us some ‘sovereignty’ in our choices?*