**Scripture:** Exodus 20:1-17 and Is. 45:5-13 & 46:5-13

**Singing:** 444:1-2 – 337:3 – 210:1-5 – 201:1, 2, 4, 5 – 161:1, 5, 8, 9

**The Sovereign and His Subjects (2)**

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?

**Opening Thoughts**

* You can’t trust someone you don’t know

Ps. 9:10: *And they that know Thy name, will put their trust in Thee.*

* Knowing that God is sovereign over all things doesn’t yet make it easy to trust Him (Job 1:21 – 42:2)

 Ps. 115:3 *Our God is in the heavens: He hath done whatsoever*

 *He hath pleased*

**III. What is the extent of God’s sovereignty?**

A. Scripture and not speculation must be our guide to answer

 1. Eph. 1:11b *… according to the purpose of Him who* ***worketh all***

 ***things*** *after the* ***counsel*** *of His own will*

a. God rules sovereignly over everything *before, in and after life*

 b. He didn’t consult anyone: Is. 40:13-14

 *Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his*

*counselor hath taught Him? With whom took He counsel, and who instructed Him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed him the way of understanding.*

 2. What about evil: *Is that also included in God’s sovereignty?*

 a. All Scripture’s teaching on this question come to following truths

 ● that God does have sovereign control over *all evil things*

 ● that He is never directly involved in anything evil

 ● that He is never blameworthy for the evil done

b. Sampling of few Biblical examples

 (1) Story of Joseph (Gen. 45:5, 8; 50:20)

 (2) Story of David’s census (2 Sam. 24:1 and 1 Chron. 21:1

 (3) Story of Jonah (Jonah :14-15; 2:3)

 (4) Story of Jesus (Acts 2:23; 4:27; Luke 22:22; Matt. 18:7)

c. In each we learn: *God ordained that His purpose would come*

 *through the willing and rebellious choices, moral failures of angels and men*

● the alternative on this *doctrine are hopeless and fearful*

Closing Thoughts

A. Don’t loose sight that God has a great sight in view than our slice

 a. Meditate upon Isaiah 46:9-11 & 45:7; Romans 9:20-21

 - *I have purposed it, I will also do it*

 - *I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and*

 *create evil: I the LORD do all these things.*

 *- Nay, but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God?*

*Shall the thing formed say to Him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonour?*

 b. Augustine: *Nothing, therefore, happens unless the Omnipotent*

*wills it to happen: He either permits it to happen or He brings it about Himself* *God judged it better to bring good out of evil than to allow no evil to exist.*

B. Be content that the *problem of God’s relationship to sin will always remain a mystery for us humans. (John 13:7; 1 Cor. 4:7)*

**Discussion Questions**

1. *Though it remains a mystery, how can God’s sovereignty be our comfort?*

2. *Read how Asaph’s struggled with God’s sovereignty in Ps. 73 & 77. How*

 *did he overcome his perplexity?*

3. *Discuss Bavinck’s analogy: God is as a parent who uses a sharp knife to*

 *bring about good purposes but never allows His children to so do.*

4. *Is sovereignty a communicable attribute? In other words, do we posses*

 *sovereignty?*

To be God and sovereign are inseparable. (S. Charnock)