

What does it mean to say that God is sovereign?

The United States of America has never had a king or queen, a sovereign, whose word was law. Its rulers are subject to the laws of the land and the vote of the electorate. But God's rule and authority depend upon no one. He declares:

"For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me"

Isaiah 46:9

"The counsel of the LORD stands for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations." Psalm 3:11

All men, in their sin, reject the authority of God. The Bible declares:

"They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one." Romans 3:12

"The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them." Corinthians 2:14

How then is man to find forgiveness of sin and reconciliation with God?

Man's sin precludes his enjoyment of a holy God and his sinful nature precludes his desire to enjoy a holy God.

The Bible does not point to man for hope, but to a sovereign God. It is God who:

- ▶ Chooses a people to be his own.

"... just as He chose us in Him fore the foundation of the world" Ephesians 1:4

- ▶ Elects his people unto salvation.

"We give thanks to God always for all ... knowing, beloved brethren, your election of God" 1Thessalonians 1:2,4

- ▶ Draws his people to himself.

" ... no one can come to me unless the Father who sent Me draws him."
John 6:44

- ▶ Justifies his people.

"Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies."

Romans 8:33

- ▶ Sanctifies his people.

"... to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called." Jude 1

- ▶ Glorifies his people.

"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." 2Corinthians 4:17

Where does that leave you and me?

At the mercy of God!

For *"it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy"* (Romans 11:16). God sovereignly chooses a people and sovereignly saves them without their help. Truly God is to be exalted and praised for his great mercy and grace.

But, you may ask, what of my decision for Christ? Did I not choose my salvation and have a part in it? Ephesians 2:8 answers you: *"By grace are you saved through faith, and that not of your own, it is a gift of God not of works, lest any man should boast."* And Jesus teaches you that *"... no one can come to me unless it has been granted to him by my Father"* (John 6:65).

God's sovereignty in salvation causes praise in his people. Paul, after teaching on God's sovereign election, bursts into praise: *"Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and his ways past finding out!"* (Romans 11:33).

Is your God sovereign in the salvation of sinners?

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