

BEHOLDING THE GOD OF SOVEREIGN SUPREMACY (Isaiah 44:28-45:7)

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I. Introduction to God's Sovereignty

- A. Definition of Divine Sovereignty: God plans and carries out his perfect will as he alone knows is best, over all that is in heaven and on earth, and he does so without failure or defeat, accomplishing his purposes in all of creation from the smallest details to the grand purposes of his plan for the whole of the created order.
- B. Definition of Divine Sovereignty illustrated from two texts:

Daniel 4:34b-35 – “. . . For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but He does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth; and no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’”

Ephesians 1:11 – “. . . we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will.”

II. Divine Sovereignty Exhibited (Isa 44:28-45:7)

- A. God's Sovereign Control over Cyrus, Israel, and the Nations (44:28-45:4)
 - 1. God names “Cyrus” as his “shepherd,” his “anointed,” and king (44:28, 45:1, 3b, 4)
 - 2. God governs the life and activities of the pagan king Cyrus (44:28-45:4)
 - a. God governs the life and development of the one named Cyrus (44:28, 45:1)
 - b. God governs the activities and successes of Cyrus as king (44:28-45:3)
 - c. God governs the life and activities of Cyrus, though Cyrus does not know God! (45:4-5)
 - d. God governs the life and activities of Cyrus for the sake of his people (44:28, 45:4)
- B. God's Sovereign Control over the Full “Spectrum” of life, both good and evil (45:5-7)

Isa 45:5-7 – ⁵“I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me; ⁶that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that there is no one besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other, ⁷the One forming light and creating darkness, causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the LORD Who does all these.”

 - 1. Assertion of exclusive claim to deity (45:5-6)
 - 2. Divine control of the full spectrum of light and darkness, well-being and calamity (45:7)
 - a. Spectrum of light and darkness, well-being and calamity
 - b. Strength of terminology especially for God's control of evil
 - c. **Key Principle: God fully controls both good and evil yet, God is wholly good and is not evil** in any respect whatsoever.

See **Isa 45:7a**, “the One forming light and *creating darkness*” along with **1 John 1:5b**, “God is

light, and in Him there is *no darkness at all.*”

See **Isa 45:7b**, “. . . causing well-being and *creating [ra] calamity*” along with **Psalm 5:4**, “For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; *no evil [ra] dwells with You.*”

d. Other Spectrum Texts

Deut 32:39 – “See now that I, I am He, and there is no god besides Me; it is I who *put to death and give life.* I have *wounded* and it is I who *heal*, and there is no one who can deliver from My hand.”

1 Sam 2:6-7 – ⁶The LORD *kills and makes alive*; He brings down to *Sheol* and *raises up.* ⁷The LORD *makes poor and rich*; He *brings low*, and He also *exalts.*

Lam 3:37-38 – ³⁷Who is there who speaks and it comes to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it? ³⁸Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that both *good* and *ill* go forth?

III. Divine Sovereignty shown to be Compatible with Human Responsibility

Genesis 45:4-8 – ⁴“Then Joseph said to his brothers, . . . ‘I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵Now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life . . . ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. ⁸Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his household and ruler over all the land of Egypt.’”

Isaiah 10:5-7, 12, 15 – ⁵“Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger, and the staff in whose hands is My indignation. ⁶I send it against a godless nation, and commission it against the people of My fury, to capture booty and to seize plunder, and to trample them down like mud in the streets. ⁷Yet it does not so intend, nor does it plan so in its heart, but rather it is its purpose to destroy, and to cut off many nations . . . ¹²So it will be when the Lord has completed all his work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, He will say, ‘I will punish the fruit of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria and the pomp of his haughtiness . . . ¹⁵Is the axe to boast itself over the one who chops with it? Is the saw to exalt itself over the one who wields it?’”

Acts 2:23; 4:27-28 – ^{2:23}“this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death . . . ^{4:27}for truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.”

IV. Conclusion and Applications

A. Sovereignty and Suffering

B. Sovereignty and Supplication

C. Sovereignty and Salvation