

CHAPTER 7

God's Sovereignty

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I. God's Supreme Authority

As the one and only God, God reigns supreme in the world. He has supreme power over all things. As such, God defeats his enemies and he fulfills his plans. A realization of this produces submission to and worship of the one and only God.

The LORD Is God – the Only God

Note that God stated that the “LORD” was the name by which he was to be known (cf. Exodus 3:12-15).

The LORD is God

Know that the LORD is God. PSALMS 100:3A NCV™

Now, O sovereign LORD, you are the true God! 2 SAMUEL 7:28A NET

The LORD is God of all people

I am the LORD, the God of all humankind. JEREMIAH 32:27A NET

Hezekiah prayed before the LORD: “LORD God of Israel, who is enthroned on the cherubs! *You alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth.* 2 KINGS 19:15A NET

The LORD is the one and only God

[GOD:] *And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me.* ²²“Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! *For I am God, and there is no other.* ISAIAH 45:21B-22 ESV

His deeds show that he is the only God

[DAVID, TO GOD:] *For you are great and do amazing things. You alone are God.* PSALMS 86:10 NET

[GOD:] *See, I am the only God. There are no others. I kill, and I make alive. I wound, and I heal, and no one can rescue you from my power.* DEUTERONOMY 32:39 GW

God has been in control of the nations throughout history

From one human being he created all races on earth and made them live throughout the whole earth. He himself fixed beforehand the exact times and the limits of the places where they would live. ACTS 17:26 GNT

God establishes all ruling authorities

Let every person be subject to *the governing authorities*. For *there is no authority except by God's appointment, and the authorities that exist have been instituted by God.* ROMANS 13:1 NET

God Has Control over Each Person

God has control over people's hearts and minds

When Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul's heart. 1 SAMUEL 10:9A NCV™

The LORD caused the Egyptians to think well of them, and the Egyptians gave the people everything they asked for. So the Israelites took rich gifts from them. EXODUS 12:36 NCV™

God has control over people's actions . . .

[DANIEL, TO KING BELSHAZZAR:] *But you have not glorified the God who has in his control your very breath and all your ways!* DANIEL 5:23B NET

. . . Despite people's plans, their steps are directed by God

A person plans his course, but the LORD directs his steps. PROVERBS 16:9 NET

God controls all that happens to people

Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that everything comes – both calamity and blessing? LAMENTATIONS 3:38 NET

[A WISE TEACHER:] *In times of prosperity be joyful, but in times of adversity consider this: God has made one as well as the other, so that no one can discover what the future holds.* ECCLESIASTES 7:14 NET

to his plans, to carry out all that he commands them over the face of the whole inhabited world. [JOB 37:11-12](#) NET

He sends his command through the earth; swiftly his order reaches its destination. ¹⁶He sends the snow that is white like wool; he spreads the frost that is white like ashes. ¹⁷He throws his hailstones like crumbs. Who can withstand the cold wind he sends? ¹⁸He then orders it all to melt; he breathes on it, and the water flows. [PSALMS 147:15-18](#) NET

God can perform miracles of nature

The LORD's angelic messenger appeared to the woman and said to her, "You are infertile and childless, but you will conceive and have a son. ... ²⁴Manoah's wife gave birth to a son and named him Samson. [JUDGES 13:3, 24A](#) NET

[ELIJAH:] For this is what the LORD God of Israel says, "The jar of flour [that was about to run out] will not be empty and the jug of oil will not run out until the day the LORD makes it rain on the surface of the ground." ¹⁵She [a widow] went and did as Elijah told her; there was always enough food for Elijah and for her and her family. ¹⁶The jar of flour was never empty and the jug of oil never ran out, just as the LORD had promised through Elijah. [1 KINGS 17:14-16](#) NET

God Has Control over the Nations

God is in control of the nations

[A PSALMIST, TO GOD:] For you execute justice among the nations, and govern the people living on earth. (Selah) [PSALMS 67:4B](#) NET

[GOD:] This is the plan I have devised for the whole earth; my hand is ready to strike all the nations." [Isaiah:] ²⁷Indeed, the LORD who commands armies has a plan, and who can possibly frustrate it? His hand is ready to strike, and who can possibly stop it? [ISAIAH 14:26-27](#) NET

What God determines for the whole world does take place, for his power to impose his will extends over all nations. For God "controls every nation" (CEV) – none can prevent him from implementing his purposes concerning them.

God Reigns Supreme

God rules over all

O LORD, you are great, mighty, majestic, magnificent, glorious, and sovereign over all the sky and earth! You have dominion and exalt yourself as the ruler of all. ¹²You are the source of wealth and honor; you rule over all. You possess strength and might to magnify and give strength to all. [1 CHRONICLES 29:11-12](#) NET

God rules over all authorities

The glorious God is the only Ruler, *the King of kings and Lord of lords.* [1 TIMOTHY 6:15A](#) CEV

God rules over the earth in righteousness

He rules the world with righteousness; he judges the nations with justice. [PSALMS 9:8](#) GNT

God will reign forever

But you, O LORD, reign forever; your throne endures from generation to generation. [LAMENTATIONS 5:19](#) NET

God will impose his absolute rule on all

[JOHN, DESCRIBING A VISION:] Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven saying: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever." ¹⁶Then the twenty-four elders who are seated on their thrones before God threw themselves down with their faces to the ground and worshiped God ¹⁷with these words: "We give you thanks, Lord God, the All-Powerful, the one who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and begun to reign. [REVELATION 11:15-17](#) NET

The proclamation in v. 15 and the final phrase "have begun to reign" (v. 17) may mean that at this point God has begun to impose his rule on all – the actualization of the kingdom (v. 15) implemented with the imposition of God's great power (v. 17). Alternatively the past tense may be used here to indicate the certainty of God doing so in the future.

God Defeats His Enemies

No one can effectively oppose God

But *he alone is God, and who can oppose him? God does as he pleases, ...* [JOB 23:13](#) CEV

[GOD:] *For there is no one like me, and there is no one who can call me to account. There is no ruler who can stand up against me.* [JEREMIAH 49:19B](#) NET

God destroys his enemies

But *he will pay back those people who hate him. He will destroy them, and he will not be slow to pay back those who hate him.* [DEUTERONOMY 7:10](#) NCV™

God Fulfills His Plans

God carries out his plans

[GOD:] *“Be sure of this: Just as I have intended, so it will be; just as I have planned, it will happen.* [ISAIAH 14:24B](#) NET

God does not change his plans

God is not a human being, and he will not lie. He is not a human, and *he does not change his mind. What he says he will do, he does. What he promises, he makes come true.* [NUMBERS 23:19](#) NCV™

No one can thwart God’s plans

Indeed, *the LORD who commands armies has a plan, and who can possibly frustrate it? His hand is ready to strike, and who can possibly stop it?* [ISAIAH 14:27](#) NET

God works everything for his plans

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of *him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ...* [EPHESIANS 1:11](#) ESV

God works all things that occur for the fulfillment of his plans.

II. God’s Control over the World

God has power over everything. This includes control over evil powers, nature, the nations of the world and each person’s life. Comprehending this is vital to having a sound understanding of God and of his relationship to the world – including his relationship with ourselves.

God Has Control over Evil

God exerts control over evil

[JACOB, REFERRING TO HIS GREEDY UNCLE:] *Yet he has cheated me and changed my wages ten times. But God did not let him harm me.* [GENESIS 31:7](#) GNT

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] *No temptation has overtaken you that is unusual for human beings. But God is faithful, and he will not allow you to be tempted beyond your strength. Instead, along with the temptation he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to endure it.* [1 CORINTHIANS 10:13](#) ISV

God has control over any temptation, whether it originates from Satan or our own sinful nature. This is indicative of his control over evil.

God even uses evil to fulfill his purposes

For God has put into their minds to carry out his purpose by making a decision to give their royal power to the beast until the words of God are fulfilled. [REVELATION 17:17](#) NET

This speaks of kings or powers of the end times cooperating with the beast or anti-Christ, to unwittingly accomplish God’s purpose.

God Has Control over Nature

God directs nature

He loads the clouds with moisture; he scatters his lightning through the clouds. ¹²The clouds go round in circles, wheeling about according