

Understanding Predestination – Biblically
From Understanding the Sovereignty of God
Ephesians 1:5

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Ephesians 1:5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

We are moving toward Ephesians 1:5 **in love He predestinated us...** Predestination is one of the most misunderstood acts of God: everywhere, from He predestinates those who will believe in Jesus as Savior to He predestinates those who will not believe in Jesus Christ. To correctly, biblically, understand predestination, we must correctly understand the Love of God. Why? Because it is in His Love that He predestinates us! And the most important point in understanding His love is that God loves His Son, Jesus the Christ.

It is also necessary to biblically understand the Sovereignty of God.

But before we can understand predestination, we must grasp the Sovereignty of God.

Why?

Because it is His ultimate authority that establishes predestination, that no one can stop or counter.

So let's take a brief look at the Sovereignty of God Almighty.

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1. The Sovereignty of God identifies God as supreme ruler. He is not ruled by anyone or anything. He has supreme authority, over this and any other universe that may exist beyond our knowledge. He is supreme ruler over the 100 billion galaxies in the universe. This means there is no authority anywhere that rules over the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of the Bible. There is nothing beyond the Sovereignty of God: life, death, good and evil, blessings and sufferings. All relationships are within His absolute authority. Therefore, people, when God declares that you have life eternal, no one can change your eternal life. Your eternal security is in the Sovereignty of God.
2. Scripture references to the Sovereignty of God.

Psalm 33:8 Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.

Psalm 33:9 For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.

Psalm 33:10 The LORD nullifies the counsel of the nations; He frustrates the plans of the peoples.

Psalm 33:11 The counsel of the LORD stands forever, (Divine Decrees) **The plans of His heart from generation to generation.**

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Psalm 50:1 The Mighty One, God, the LORD, has spoken, And summoned the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Psa. 66:7 He rules (has dominion over) by His might (this is what makes Him Sovereign) forever; (Sovereignty plus eternality) His eyes keep watch on the nations; Let not the rebellious exalt themselves.

Psalm 93:1 The LORD reigns, (Because He is Sovereign He rules, which emphasizes the fact that He regulates, He is in charge; He reigns—to exercise Sovereign power) He is clothed with majesty; The Lord has clothed and girded Himself with strength; (Omnipotence) Indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved. (There is no power or authority over Him)

Psalm 93:2 Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting. (Eternality of God)

Isaiah 40:12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, (Because of the

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Sovereignty of God, we need not worry about the weather or climate—they are in His Sovereign control.) **And marked off the heavens by the span, And calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, And weighed the mountains in a balance And the hills in a pair of scales?**

Isaiah 40:13 Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, (No one) Or as His counselor has informed Him? (No one)

Isaiah 40:14 With whom did He consult and *who* gave Him understanding? (No one, He is Omniscient) And *who* taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge (No one, He is perfect Righteous) And informed Him of the way of understanding? (No one. The point here is that the great Lucifer, Satan has to be taught, but not God)

Isaiah 40:15 Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, And are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales; Behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust.

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Isaiah 40:16 Even Lebanon is not enough to burn, Nor its beasts enough for a burnt offering.

Isaiah 40:17 All the nations are as nothing before Him, They are regarded by Him as less than nothing and meaningless.

Isaiah 40:18 To whom then will you liken God? (No one, Idolatry tries) Or what likeness will you compare with Him?

People, I pray that as we go through these readings on the Sovereignty of our God, that it gives you peace and assurance.

Isaiah 46:9 “Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; *I am God, and there is no one like Me,*

Isaiah 40:10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, ‘My purpose will be established, (Divine Decrees) And I will accomplish all My good pleasure’;

Isaiah 40:11 Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far

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country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned *it, surely* I will do it.

He is Sovereign and there is no power, no authority, no one who can stop the fulfillment of the Decrees of God, as in Predestination.

Some people have to learn about the Sovereignty of God the hard way as Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 4:31 While the word was in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven, saying, 'King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you,

Daniel 4:32 and you will be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling place *will be* with the beasts of the field. You will be given grass to eat like cattle, and seven periods of time will pass over you until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.'

Daniel 4:33 Immediately the word concerning Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled; and he was driven away from mankind and began eating grass like cattle, and his body was drenched

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with the dew of heaven until his hair had grown like eagles' *feathers* and his nails like birds' *claws*.

Daniel 4:34 “But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever;

**For His dominion is an everlasting dominion,
And His kingdom *endures* from generation to generation.**

People, you do not want to have to have God come down and take you through tribulations just so you will learn that God is Sovereign. You can learn it, by faith, in the study of His Word, and enjoy the blessings of just knowing that our God is Sovereign in your daily life.

1 Timothy 6:15 which He will bring about (the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ) at the proper time (His Sovereignty controls the timing of events of history)—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, (*to be able to do whatever He desires*) the King of kings and Lord of lords,

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Psalm 103:19 The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over all.

The Hebrew word translated *sovereignty* is the verb meaning to rule or to have dominion. *Over all*: over all earth and over all space to 100 billion galaxies. This expresses the supremacy and vastness of His empire.

3. (this point is very important to grasp, it requires humility from the Holy Spirit) Stephen Charnock well points out in his book on ‘The Essence and Attributes of God,’ on page 658 that: “As man is too shallow a creature to comprehend the excellency of God, so he is too dull and scanty a creature to offer up a true praise to God, both in regard of the excellency of His nature, and the multitude and greatness of His benefits.” I would add to this observation that God is aware of the inabilities acquired by the fall of man, that He gave to every believer, God the Holy Spirit, who supernaturally enables us to begin to grasp and comprehend God and to praise Him. Outside of the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, it is impossible for the human creature to grasp the Essence of God, including His Sovereignty.

Sufferings and hurts and needs and wants motivate us to pray to God, but the Holy Spirit gives us ‘love’ (Spiritual Love) for each member of the Godhead, a love which motivates us to praise Him and give thanks to Him.

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4. What is the difference between the Sovereignty of God and the Omnipotence of God? It is the difference between power and authority. One may have the authority but not the power or one may have the power but not the authority. God being Omnipotent has absolute power and absolute authority. By His Authority He acts as His Righteousness and Justice dictates. Omnipotence is His inherent ‘physical’ power so that He is able to do whatever He wills. Sovereignty is His authority to execute whatever His Holiness motivates Him to do. Here is where the Calvinists clearly do not understand the Sovereignty of God. To them Sovereignty means that God is able to predestinate man to a lake of fire and another to believe in Jesus Christ. We must understand that His Sovereignty does not violate His Holiness nor His Fairness. God is Good, and God is Fair to all His creatures. By His Omnipotence God has the absolute Power to do whatever He decrees. By His Sovereignty He has the authority or right to do whatever He decrees. By His righteousness and Justice (His Holiness) He is guided by all that He decrees. By His power and His authority God has the power and right to sin, but by His perfect Righteousness He cannot sin. He can never use His power, nor His authority but for the ‘good’ of His creation. To acknowledge the existence of God is to acknowledge His absolute fairness.

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

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5. Sovereignty is inseparable from the being of God. If He is God, He is Sovereign and Omnipotent. Allah, and Brahman, (the primary god of the Hindus) and all other idols are not Sovereign, nor are they Omniscient, nor Omnipotent. Only the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is Sovereign, Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent and Loving and Righteous.
6. His Sovereignty is clearly seen in that the objective and fulfillment of all His creation is for His Glory.

Revelation 4:11 “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”

Remember this in your own life, that if you desire to be in the proper flow of history, glorify God.

7. His Sovereignty is seen in that He is in control of all dispensations.

Daniel 4:17 “This sentence is by the decree of the *angelic* watchers And the decision is a command of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, And bestows it on whom He wishes And sets over it the lowliest of men.”

Remember this when you pray!!!

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8. He is Sovereign in that He answers to no one.

Ecclesiastes 8:4 Since the word of the king is authoritative, who will say to him, “What are you doing?”

Romans 9:20 On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, “Why did you make me like this,” will it?

Please remember this when things happen in your life that you do not understand or that may cause you to anger. Do not question the Sovereign God, trust Him.

Psalm 46:10 Cease *striving*, Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

Stop the quarrelling in your soul, be still, and rest in His peace that He knows what He is doing, and quietly trust Him and give Him thanks. He does not have to answer anyone.

9. The extent of His Sovereignty. He is sovereign over all that He has created. He is Sovereign over angels, under His title ‘Lord of hosts’

Psalm 103:21 Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, (angelic) You who serve Him, doing His will.

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And since Christmas draws near:

Luke 2:13 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

Luke 2:14 “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”

Isaiah 45:12 “It is I who made the earth, and created man upon it. I stretched out the heavens with My hands

And I commanded all their host.

This is so vital in a correct understanding of the Angelic Conflict. When you think of angels acting in the history of man, remember He is sovereign over all angelic host. This, by all means, includes His rule over all fallen angels.

Job 12:16 “With Him are strength and sound wisdom, The misled and the misleader belong to Him.

The super creature Satan is the one who misleads angels and mankind. Always call this to mind when it looks or seems as though Satan is winning.

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10. Being Sovereign means that it is God who makes laws. After Kit Sheehan's lessons on how laws or rules establish Dispensations, you should be able to grasp that it is the Sovereignty of God that enables Him to establish laws that define Dispensations.

Isaiah 33:22 For the LORD is our judge, The LORD is our lawgiver, The LORD is our king; He will save us—

James 4:12 There is *only* one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?

Here we apply the sovereignty of God in how we relate to one another, that is we do not judge them. This, of course, does not mean that we set aside His laws in regard to sins. The respect of and for the Sovereignty of God is ingrained in our souls by His doing.

Romans 13:5 Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, from God but also for conscience' sake.

Before God and in our relationship with Him. When the Sovereign God designed and created mankind, He implanted a soul conscience of Him and His laws.

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Romans 2:14 For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves,

Romans 2:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth (that is in them by creation) in unrighteousness,

Romans 2:19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

Romans 2:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. (Fairness of God in His Sovereignty)

Romans 1:32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only

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do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

We have a few more things to yet learn about the Sovereignty of Almighty God. People, it is so important that we correctly, biblically, understand the Sovereignty of God, in order to correctly understand our Predestination.

We will continue understanding the importance of the Sovereignty of God in the understanding of Predestination.