

## **Introduction: In flight; Hong Kong to Beijing 1999**

Q: What makes you think your god is better than everyone else's god?

A: Because the God I worship . . .

- . . . is before **all** things. Colossians 1:17, Psalm 90:2, Revelation 1:8, 1 Timothy 6:16
- . . . created **all** things. Genesis 1:1, John 1:3, Colossians 1:16
- . . . upholds **all** things. Hebrews 1:3, Colossians 1:17
- . . . is above **all** things. Ephesians 4:6, Isaiah 45:5-12
- . . . knows **all** things. Isaiah 46:10, Psalm 139:4,6
- . . . can do **all** things. Jeremiah 32:27, Luke 1:37
- . . . accomplishes **all** things. Isaiah 14:24 & 46:10, Ephesians 1:11
- . . . rules over **all** things. Daniel 4:34-35, 1 Chronicles 29:11-12
- . . . is in control of **all** things. Job 42:2, Romans 8:28
  - *earthly kings* Proverbs 21:1, Revelation 19:16
  - *human events* Daniel 2 & 7, Psalm 33:9-11
  - *good angels* Colossians 1:15-16, Revelation 4:8
  - *Satan & bad angels* Job 1:6, Ephesians 1:21, Philippians 2:10
  - *human decisions* Ephesians 1:11, Romans 8:29-30, Acts 2:23; 13:48

***In a word, I worship the Sovereign God of the universe.***

### Defining the sovereignty of God:

- Sovereign = **adj.** (1) above or superior to all others; chief; greatest; supreme (2) supreme in power, rank, or authority (3) of or holding the position of ruler; royal; reigning (4) independent of all others (5) excellent; outstanding – **n.** (1) a person who possesses sovereign authority or power; specific, a monarch or ruler
- Synonymous Meaning = *ruler, ultimate authority, “in control,” King of kings, Lord of lords, without equal, without limitation in any way, the only absolutely free being in the universe.*

“God’s sovereignty is the attribute by which He rules His entire creation, and to be sovereign God must be all-knowing, all-powerful, and absolutely free. The reasons are these:

“Were there even one datum of knowledge, however small, unknown to God, His rule would break down at that point. To be Lord over all the creation, He must possess all knowledge. And were God lacking one infinitesimal modicum of power, that lack would end His reign and undo His kingdom; that one stray atom of power would belong to someone else and God would be a limited ruler and hence not sovereign.

Furthermore, His sovereignty requires that He be absolutely free, which means simply that He must be free to do whatever He wills to do anywhere at any time to carry out His eternal purpose in every single detail without interference. Were He less than free He must be less than sovereign.”

A. W. Tozer, *Knowledge of the Holy*

### How does God reveal His sovereignty to us?

- Through His Titles - SOVEREIGN LORD, MOST HIGH, ALPHA & OMEGA, KINGS OF KINGS, LORD OF LORDS
- Through His \_\_\_\_\_
  - Romans 8:28-30
  - Philippians 2:9-11
- Through His \_\_\_\_\_
  - Of Israel - (Joseph) Genesis 37-50:20
  - Of the Nations- (4 Kingdoms) Daniel 2, 7
- Through \_\_\_\_\_
  - He reveals mysteries Daniel 2:27
  - He explained the future of His people Isaiah 44:6-8 (NLT)
- Through \_\_\_\_\_
  - His birth Galatians 4:4, Matthew 2:3-6
  - His life (fulfilled hundreds of prophecies) Matthew 4:14; Matthew 12:15-2
  - His teaching John 8:48-58
  - His death and resurrection John 10:17-18
  - His ascension and ultimate reign Acts 1:9-11; Revelation 19:11-16

### Two questions the sovereignty of God raises:

1. If God is sovereign, why did/does He allow evil, pain, and suffering?
2. If God is sovereign over all people and events in history, doesn't this make a sham of human responsibility?

### How must we respond to a sovereign God?

- \_\_\_\_\_ before the King of the universe. Philippians 2:9-11

**Application** = Absolute \_\_\_\_\_ of all you are and all you have!

- \_\_\_\_\_ all that comes into your life is either allowed or decreed by a good God who will use it for your benefit.

Romans 8:28-29, Genesis 50:20

**Application** = Absolutely refuse to \_\_\_\_\_!

- \_\_\_\_\_ in awe the mystery and majesty of His kind, compassionate, just, and sovereign rule of all that is or will ever be.

Romans 11:33-36, Genesis 50:20

**Application** = \_\_\_\_\_ God for who He is, not merely for what He has done!

### Practical Application:

1. Read about the sovereignty and majesty of God in chapter 22 from Tozer's *Knowledge of the Holy*, chapter four from Packer's *Knowing God*, or chapter five from my book *God, As He Longs for You to See Him*.
2. Look up the passages on page one of this handout and consider "who it is" you worship.
3. List the top two struggles/fears in your life and consider what your response should be to these if God is both good and sovereign.