

KNOWING GOD: LESSON 13
BEHOLD YOUR GOD!
THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD (PARTS 2 & 3)
 Psalm 103:19

I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. **2** In our last lesson we began considering the **sovereignty** of God.

Psa. 103:19: “The LORD has established His throne in the heavens; And His **sovereignty** rules over all.” (NASV)

2. We defined **sovereignty** as “rule” and noted the word comes to us from the two Latin words for “super” and “king,” thus, a **sovereign** is a **Super King**; one who possesses **complete, absolute power** and **authority** (Matt. 28:18).
3. We also noted it’s difficult for our minds to comprehend **sovereignty**, esp. in the 21st century, because we’re unfamiliar w/rulers that possess power anywhere near to that of a true **sovereign**.
4. Very importantly, few, even those claiming to be New Testament Christians, **comprehend, appreciate** or **embrace** the **sovereignty** of God.

******“The ‘god’ of this twentieth century no more resembles the Supreme Sovereign of Holy Writ than does the dim flickering of a candle the glory of the midday sun. The ‘god’ who is now talked about in the average pulpit, spoken of in the ordinary Sunday School, mentioned in much of the religious literature of the day, and preached in most of the so-called Bible Conferences is the figment of human imagination, an invention of maudlin sentimentality...A ‘god’ whose will is resisted, whose designs are frustrated, whose purpose is checkmated, possesses no title to Deity, and so far from being a fit object of worship, merits naught but contempt.” (*The Knowledge of the Holy*, A. W. Tozer)

5. ****** Also, very importantly we noted last time that God’s **sovereignty** means that He is absolutely free to do whatever He wills; to do anything at anytime to accomplish His eternal purpose. He is subject to none; He is absolutely independent; He does as He please, when He pleases, only as He pleases, always as He pleases.

Psa. 115:3: “But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.”

Isa. 46:10: “Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,’”

Dan. 4:35: “All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’”

Eph. 1:11: “...works all things according to the counsel of His will,”

6. ****** Last time we noted 2 ways in which God expresses His **sovereignty**: His **creation** & His **law**.

A. **God demonstrates His sovereignty through creation:** Genesis 1; Jn. 1:1-3; Heb. 11:3.

- ☛ **When of creation:** God created the heavens and the earth *in the beginning*. Before creation neither **time**, **space** or **matter** existed. Only one with *supreme* and *absolute* **sovereignty** could accomplish the *when* of creation!
- ☛ **Who of creation:** Deity created the “heavens and the earth.” Only Deity working in *intimate and perfect communion* possesses the *supreme* and *absolute* **sovereignty** to accomplish the *who* of creation.
- ☛ **What of creation:** God *created, made, framed* all created things; He caused them to come into existence. Before this no created thing had existence! Only one with *supreme* and *absolute* **sovereignty** could accomplish the *what* of creation!

☛ **How of creation:** God, through the eternal Word spoke what is (universe) into existence from what isn't (nothing)! Only one with *supreme* and *absolute* **sovereignty** could accomplish the *how* of creation!

B. **God demonstrates His sovereignty through Law:** Law is the instrument through which a **sovereign** exercises his rule or **sovereignty**.

- (1) In every age man has been subject to God's law (e. g., patriarchal law, law of Moses, law of Christ)(Gen. 2:15-17; 4:3-4; Heb. 11:4; Rom. 10:17; Gal. 3:19, 24; Rom. 1:20-32; 2; Gal. 6:1; Heb. 8:6-10)
- (2) Failure to be in subjection to the law of the Sovereign of the Universe has always resulted in both **eternal** (cf. Gen. 2:17; Ezek. 18:20; Rom. 6:23; Jas. 1:13-15; Isa. 59:2) and **temporal** (Gen. 3:16-19; 2 Sam. 11-21) **consequences**.

7. **3** Let's continue our study on God's **sovereignty**:

II. DISCUSSION:

Continuing from our last lesson...

2. **4** *God's sovereignty demonstrated:* How does God demonstrate His **sovereignty**?

C. **** Nation of Israel: God demonstrates His sovereignty through the nation of Israel:**
****** Deut. 7:6-8

- (1) ****** Most religion "experts" have an erroneous view of history (i.e., what I call the "A & E view" (i.e., A & E television network)). Summary of their "view":
 - (a) "Christianity" is just another "religion" invented by man (Given the way it is practiced by the vast majority of "Christians"; they may have a very valid point!).
 - (b) Since "Christianity" is a religion invented by man; the Bible records the "evolution" of man's thoughts and concept of God.
- (2) ****** Such a "view" denies:
 - (a) Verbal & plenary inspiration of the Scriptures (cf. 1 Cor. 2:1-13; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21; Jn. 16:13; 17:17).
 - (b) The Bible records God's "intervention" or "control" of history as He fulfills His eternal purpose of redeeming man from sin.

Dan. 4:17: *"That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men."*

Eph. 1:11: *"...Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,"*

- (3) **5** God's has made "timeless" promises and then fulfilled them in "time" (i.e., He has directed history through His **sovereignty** to meet His ends!):

Gen. 3:15: *"And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

******"This statement is the first promise made by Jehovah after man's fall; He promised that one, "the seed of the woman," should bruise the head, i.e., break the power of the serpent. Here is a promise the fulfillment of which requires that one be born of a woman but not of a male. It is inexplicable apart from supernatural fulfillment. But in Jesus Christ, born of the virgin Mary, it is abundantly fulfilled and God's promise is kept. The coming of this "seed of the woman" who should bruise the serpent's head and the consequent result of that coming is the grand theme of the rest of the Bible." (*From Creation to the Day of Eternity*, Homer Hailey, pgs. 28-29)

(4) ** God's threefold promise to Abraham:

Gen. 12:1-3, 7: "Now the LORD had said to Abram: 'Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' 7 Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, 'To your descendants I will give this land.'"

- ❶ ****Promise #1: The nation promise** ("I will make you a great nation," v. 2),
- ❷ **Promise #2: The land promise** ("To your descendants I will give this land." v. 7),
- ❸ **Promise #3: The seed or spiritual promise** ("And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." v. 3).

(5) **6** I submit to you that the rest of the Bible story is the history of God exercising His **sovereignty** over the history of man as He fulfills these promises; as He "works all things according to the counsel of His will." Let us note some of the highlights:****Patriarchal Period:** Genesis-Exodus, Job

- ✓ Birth of the promised child (Isaac) to Abraham and Sarah (Gen. 21); Jacob born to Isaac & Rebekah (Gen. 25); Jacob fathers the tribes of Israel (Gen. 29ff).
- ✓ Joseph sold into slavery and ultimately finding "favor" with the Egyptian Pharaoh (Gen. 37-41).
- ✓ God uses Joseph and Egypt to providentially save Israel (Gen. 42-47).
- ✓ From a meager 70 people (Gen. 46:27) Israel becomes "fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty, and the land (Egypt, cvt) was filled with them" (Ex. 1:7).
- ✓ The Egyptians afflict Israel and God raises up a "type" of Christ, Moses, to deliver them from Egyptian bondage (Ex. 1-4).
- ✓ Through Moses, God miraculously intervenes in Egypt to deliver Israel from bondage (10 miraculous plagues, Red Sea crossing) (Ex. 5-14).

****Mosaic Period:** Exodus-Malachi, Matthew-John

- ✓ God makes a covenant with Israel (Ex. 19ff; Lev.).

Ex. 19:6: "And you shall be to Me a **kingdom** of priests and a **holy** nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel." (Kingdom = sovereign, God was to rule over them); giving of the law on Sinai (Ex. 20, etc.).
- ✓ Through God's providential deliverance and sustenance Israel is now a large nation (i.e., kingdom!), men above the age of 20 (not including Levites) number 603,550! (Num. 1:46) God has fulfilled the "nation" promise made to Abraham!
- ✓ God providentially preserves rebellious Israel for 40 years (Num. 10ff).
- ✓ God fulfills the land promise through Joshua's leadership (Joshua).

Josh. 21:43, 45: "So the LORD gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it. 45 Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass."
- ✓ Through the 350 years of the "Dark Ages" of Israel's history, the times of the Judges, God continually intervenes and delivers a faithful remnant (Judges).

Jud. 21:25: *“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”*

- ✓ Israel rejects God as their king, yet God continues to preserve a faithful remnant (1 Samuel, 2 Sam., 1 Kgs. 1-11; 1 Chron., 2 Chron. 1-9).

1 Sam. 8:4-5: *“Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, 5 and said to him, ‘Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.’”*

1 Sam. 8:6-7: *“But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, ‘Give us a king to judge us.’ So Samuel prayed to the LORD. 7 And the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.’”*
- ✓ Israel survives as a United Kingdom under three kings (Saul, David, Solomon) that each rule 40 years (1 Sam. 8-31; 2 Sam.; 1 Kgs. 1-11; 1 Chron. 1; 2 Chron. 1-9).
- ✓ Israel is divided into two kingdoms (North-Israel, South-Judah) (1 Kgs. 11-12),
- ✓ The next 200+ years the divided kingdoms continue to spiral downward into all manner of evil and idolatry, yet God, continues to preserve a faithful remnant (1 Kgs. 12ff, 2 Kgs., 2 Chron. 10-36),
- ✓ God raises (Shalmaneser) up Assyria to punish Israel (a nation who never saw a righteous king!); the Northern kingdom carried away into Assyrian captivity in 722 B.C. (2 Kgs. 17),
- ✓ God spares Judah from Assyrian captivity through the reforms of Hezekiah (only 8 of Judah’s 20 kings are righteous) (2 Kgs. 18-20, 2 Chron. 29-32),
- ✓ Judah’s reforms are not maintained and she falls back into idolatry, so God raises up the Chaldeans (i.e., Babylonians) to punish Judah (606, 596, 587 B.C.) (2 Kgs. 25, 2 Chron. 36, Daniel),

Hab. 1:5-6: *“Look among the nations and watch; Be utterly astounded! For I will work a work in your days Which you would not believe, though it were told you. 6 For indeed I am raising up the Chaldeans, A bitter and hasty nation Which marches through the breadth of the earth, To possess dwelling places that are not theirs.”*

Isa. 39:5-7: *“Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, ‘Hear the word of the LORD of hosts: 6 ‘Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,’ says the LORD. 7 ‘And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.’”*
- ✓ God promises that the Babylonian captivity will last only 70 years (Jer. 25:12; 29:10; 2 Chron. 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-3); and at least 150 years in advance He **specifically** names the king who will allow a remnant (Isa. 10:20-23) from Judah to return to Jerusalem. (Isa. 44:24-45:7),

Jer. 29:10: *“For thus says the LORD: ‘After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place.’”*

Isa. 44:28: *“Who says of Cyrus, ‘He is My shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure, Saying to Jerusalem, ‘You shall be built,’ And to the temple, ‘Your foundation shall be laid.’”*

- ✓ True to His promise God restores a remnant (Hag. 1:12-14; 2:2; Ezra 9:8, 14, 15; 2:70; Neh. 1:3-9; 7:73) of Judah from the Babylonian captivity through Cyrus in 536 B.C. (Ezra 1-5),

Ezra. 1:1-3: “Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, 2 ‘Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: ‘All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. 3 Who is among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel (He is God), which is in Jerusalem.’”

Work of Cyrus confirmed by archaeologists:

“The famous cylinder of Cyrus found by Hormuzd Rassam in the 19th century is in remarkable agreement with the royal edict as set forth in the Bible. “From ...Ashur and Susa, Agade, Ashnunnak, Zamban, Meturnu, Deri, with the territory of the land of Gutium, the cities on the other side of the Tigris, whose sites were of ancient found--the gods, who dwell in them. I brought back to their places and caused them to dwell in a habitation for all time. All their inhabitants I collected and restored them to their dwelling places... may all the gods whom I brought into their cities pray daily before Bel and Nabu for long life for me...” (R. W. Rogers, *Cuneiform Parallels to the Old Testament*, p. 383)

- (5) Surely, we can dramatically see God exercising His **sovereignty** as He guides over 4,000 years of human history from His promise in Gen. 3:15 and over 2,000 years of Israel’s history as He fulfills His Genesis 12 promises to Abraham (nation and land)!!

D. 7 God demonstrates His sovereignty through Jesus Christ:

- ✓ ******Jesus demonstrates God’s **sovereignty** by His fulfillment of prophecy. For example, Gen. 3:15, “seed of the woman” (cf. Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1; Gen. 3:15),

Gal. 4:4-5: “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”

******“He was born of a virgin, hence, ‘the seed of the woman.’ In this He fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1). He also fulfilled the needs of the human family: A Saviour was born.

Born of a virgin and begotten by the Holy Spirit, He was both ‘Son of God’ and ‘Son of man.’ The woman was the mother of His humanity, and God was the Father of His deity. As a man He could approach men both as a fellowman and as one who knew all about God because He Himself was God, i.e., divine, deity. He could approach God on our behalf as God, because He was the Son of God, yet as God who had been man and understood perfectly the frailties and needs of man. His birth of a virgin was God’s means of bringing into the world His Son through whom He could reveal Himself. It was God’s means of providing for man’s spiritual needs for his redemption.” (*From Creation to the Day of Eternity*, Homer Hailey, p. 78)

- (1) ****** “Henry Liddon is credited with the statement that there are 332 prophecies fulfilled in Christ. The mathematical probability that all of these could be fulfilled in one person by sheer chance alone has been calculated at one over 84 (followed by 123 zeros). That would be 84×10^{123} .” (*Introduction to Christian Evidences*, Ferrell Jenkins, p. 106)

8Item	Prophesied	Fulfilled
Seed of woman	Gen. 3:15	Gal. 4:4
Seed of Abraham	Gen. 12:1-3; 22:18	Gal. 3:16; Acts 3:25-26
Seed of Isaac	Gen. 26:4	Gal. 3:16; Acts 3:25-26
Seed of Jacob (Israel)	Gen. 28:14	Gal. 3:16; Acts 3:25-26
Tribe of Judah (a King)	Gen. 49:10	Heb. 7:14
Seed of David	2 Sam. 7:12-14	Lk. 1:32; Acts 2:29-36; 13:22-23; Rom. 1:3
Virgin birth	Isa. 7:14	Matt. 1:21-25
A voice preparing the way	Isa. 40:3	Matt. 3:3
Elijah must first come	Mal. 3:1; 4:5	Matt. 17:9-13; Mk. 9:9-13; Lk. 1:17
Ministry to be in Galilee to Gentiles	Isa. 9:1-2	Matt. 4:12-17
Despised, rejected, man of sorrow, acquainted with grief	Isa. 53:3	Jn. 1:11; 12:37
To enter Jerusalem in triumph	Zech. 9:9	Matt. 21:1-9

- (2) Surely, we can dramatically see God exercising His **sovereignty** as He guides thousands of years of human history to fulfill His promises in Genesis 3:15 and Genesis 12 (etc.) in the coming of the Messiah born of a virgin!! Also...

******“There are at least 16 prophecies which were fulfilled in one 24-hour period surrounding the death of Christ. These prophecies were written up to 1,000 years or more before the time of their fulfillment. They had all been translated from Hebrew to Greek nearly 300 years before their fulfillment. (LXX was begun about 280 B.C.) Many of them were fulfilled by the enemies of Christ who would not knowingly fulfill a single verse of Scripture” (*Introduction to Christian Evidences*, Ferrell Jenkins, p. 107)

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Item	Prophesied	Fulfilled
Sold for 30 pieces of silver	Zech. 11:12	Matt. 26:14-15
Money to cast to the potter	Zech. 11:13	Matt. 27:3-10
Disciples to forsake Him	Zech. 13:7	Matt. 26:56; Mk. 14:27
Silent before His accusers	Isa. 53:7	Matt. 27:12-14
Wounded and bruised	Isa. 53:5	Matt. 27:26
Pierced hands and feet	Psa. 22:16	Lk. 23:33; Jn. 20:25-27
Crucified with thieves	Isa. 53:12	Mk. 15:27-28
Prayed for His persecutors	Isa. 53:12	Lk. 23:34
People shake heads at the crucified one	Psa. 22:7-8	Matt. 27:39-40
People to ridicule Him	Psa. 22:7-8	Matt. 27:41-43
People to be astonished	Isa. 52:14	Lk. 23:35
Garments parted and lots cast	Psa. 22:18	Jn. 19:24
His cry	Psa. 22:1	Matt. 27:46
Bones not to be broken ¹	Psa. 34:20	Jn. 19:33-36
Passover lamb	Ex. 12:46	Jn. 1:29; 1 Cor. 5:7
Piercing of His side	Zech. 12:10	Jn. 19:34-37
Burial in rich man’s tomb	Isa. 53:9	Matt. 27:57-60

It is very interesting to note that the Jews used stoning for execution that would involve the breaking of bones. Crucifixion was not used at the time of this prophecy (time of David: c. 1,000 B.C.). The Persians introduced crucifixion nearly 500 years later than this time.

- (3) Surely, we can dramatically see God exercising His **sovereignty** as He guides human history to fulfill a **VAST NUMBER** of promises made over 1,000 years in advance concerning **one single 24-hour period in His Son's life!**
- (4) **I0** We can also see God's sovereignty through the miracles performed by Jesus. (*That You May Believe: Studies in the Gospel of John*, Homer Hailey, p. 107-113)

******“An interesting fact that adds weight to the testimony of miracles is that the enemies of Jesus never denied the miracles; however, they refused to accept them as being performed by divine power. Effort was never made by the Lord or by His disciples to prove that a miracle had been accomplished. The miracles were recognized and accepted by all; they spoke for themselves.” (*That You May Believe: Studies in the Gospel of John*, Homer Hailey, p. 107)

☛ ****Testimony of friends:**

Jn. 3:2: “This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, ‘Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.’”

☛ ****Testimony of the common people:**

Jn. 7:31: “And many of the people believed in Him, and said, ‘When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this Man has done?’”

☛ ****Testimony of enemies:**

Jn. 11:47: “Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, ‘What shall we do? For this Man works many signs.’”

******“In a movement such as that undertaken by Jesus, in which the Father of man and the Creator of the *Kosmos* were revealing themselves, it is only reasonable to expect the miraculous. Isolated and unrelated miracles are always to be received with suspicion. Those of Jesus are neither isolated nor unrelated but are identified with a great historical movement which fulfills a plan that originated in eternity, began to be revealed in Eden (Gen. 3:15), and continued with the promise of God to Abraham. This promise to Abraham had continued in its development for nearly two *millennia*. ...As John presents miracles as signs, they establish the grand fact that Jesus had authority and power over all realms; He possessed power which belonged to God Himself. Thus these related Him and His word to God. Miracles were direct evidence to His claims as Savior, shepherd, and sustainer of man and his needs. They substantiate the claims that He came from God, was one with God, and came to reveal God. The miracles as recorded by John sustain a moral relation to His teaching.” (*That You May Believe: Studies in the Gospel of John*, Homer Hailey, p. 109-110)

- (5) **I1** God's **sovereignty** demonstrated in Jesus' miracles recorded by John:
- ✓ **Sovereignty** over **matter** and **quality**: Turning water into wine (Jn. 2:1-11),
 - ✓ **Sovereignty** over **disease** and **distance**: Healing the nobleman's son (Jn. 4:46-54),
 - ✓ **Sovereignty** over **time** and **truth**: Healing the lame man (Jn. 5:1-9),
 - ✓ **Sovereignty** over **quantity**: Feeding the five thousand (Jn. 6:1-14),
 - ✓ **I2 Sovereignty** over **mighty forces of nature** (wind, wave, gravity): Jesus' walking on water (Jn. 6:16-21),

- ✓ **Sovereignty** over **light** and **darkness**: Restoring sight to the man born blind (Jn. 9:1-12),
- ✓ **Sovereignty** over **death** and **life**: Raising of Lazarus (Jn. 11:39-44).

******“One may contend, “But no one today has seen one of the signs!” and this is correct. Signs pertained to the age of the introduction of Jesus and the inauguration of His kingdom. The weight of their testimony to us is in the moral character of the signs. In each of them, there is a relation between the sign and the teaching of Jesus. Someone has said, “The miracles are not the mere proofs of a revelation; they are themselves the revelation.” They reveal the deity of Him who walked among men. They are the Father’s testimony to the claims of His Son that He and His message are from God.” (*That You May Believe: Studies in the Gospel of John*, Homer Hailey, p. 113)

- (6) Surely the miracles performed by Jesus were not the actions of a mere man!
- (a) They were the acts of a **sovereign** God exercising His rule over that which He created from nothing (Heb. 11:3).
 - (b) Exercising **sovereignty** over that which He had spoke into existence (Gen. 1; Heb. 11:3) while “equal with God” (Jn. 1:1; Phil. 2:6) “in the beginning” (Gen. 1:1; Jn. 1:1) with the “word of His power” (Heb. 1:3).
 - (c) That same creation could not but help obey that same “word” when He had “made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.”!! (Phil. 2:7)

(Part 3)

- (7) **13** We can also see God’s **sovereignty** through the kingship of Jesus that He gained through His death, burial, and resurrection (**1 Tim. 6:15-16**: “...who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; 16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.” KJV).

- (a) **** Prophecy**: prophecies concerning the “King”:

- ✓ Characteristics of God’s King:
 - ☛ **Tender & tough**: A extremely rare combination of **tenderness** and **toughness**, but in the future because none in David’s current house qualified (2 Sam. 23:1-7; ~1,000 B.C.).
 - ☛ ****Virgin birth**: Born of a virgin and named “Immanuel” (‘God with us’):

Isa. 7:13-14: “Then he said, ‘Hear now, O house of David! Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”; cf. Matt. 1:23
 - ☛ ****Sit on David’s throne**: To reign on David’s throne (~700 B.C.):

Isa. 9:6-7: “For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7 Of the increase of His government and peace
There will be no end,

Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice
From that time forward, even forever.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”

- ☛ ****Savior-King:** the “Branch of righteousness” (~600 B.C.):

Jer. 23:5-6: “Behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. 6 In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: ‘THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.’”

- ☛ ****Shepherd-Prince:** from David to feed and care for God’s people (~600 B.C.):

Ezek. 34:23-24: “I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them — My servant David. He shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David a prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.”

- ☛ ****“the Branch”:** the one who shall build the LORD’s temple and sit on God’s throne as king and priest (~500 B.C.):

Zech. 6:12-13: “Then speak to him, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, saying:

‘Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH!
From His place He shall branch out,
And He shall build the temple of the LORD;
I 3 Yes, He shall build the temple of the LORD.
He shall bear the glory,
And shall sit and rule on His throne;
So He shall be a priest on His throne,
And the counsel of peace shall be between them both.’”; cf. Heb. 6:20-7:1

- (b) **** Fulfillment:** fulfillment that Jesus is indeed “King”:

- ✓ **Angel’s announce it:** The angel’s announcement to Mary:

****Lk. 1:32-33:** “He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 ‘And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.’”

- ✓ ****Jesus’ testimony:** Jesus admitted to being the king before Pilate (Jn. 18:33-37).

- ✓ **I 4** Inspired men proclaimed it: e.g., in the very first gospel sermon the inspired apostle Peter confirms His “Davidic” kingship as the foundation of his sermon (Acts 2:22-36; cf. Psalms 16; Acts 13:30-37) (**Note:** An “elegant argument” is an argument/explanation that is “gracefully concise and simple; admirably succinct” [Dictionary.com]. Peter’s argument (i.e., Holy Spirit’s argument) is, in my view, the most ‘elegant argument’ in all of scripture!)

- **Facts (**vv. 22-24):**

- ☛ ****Jesus** (note carefully, Peter does not use the title “Christ” yet! (i.e., “Jesus of Nazareth”) was “approved by God” through “miracles, wonders, and signs” (v. 22)(One of the most profound statements ever uttered by human lips!)

****Note:** “In one breath they have heard no less than seven startling propositions: 1st. That Jesus had been approved by God among them, by

miracles and wonders and signs, which God had done by him. 2d. That they, themselves, *knew* this to be so. 3d. That it was not from impotence on his part, but in accordance with the purpose and foreknowledge of God, that he was yielded up to them. 4th. That when thus yielded up they had put him to death by the torture of crucifixion. 5th. That they had done this with wicked hands. 6th. That God had raised him from the dead. 7th. That it was not possible that death should hold him.” (McGarvey, J.W., *A Commentary on Acts of the Apostles*, p. 33).

- ☛ These people had first-hand knowledge of this man, they were eyewitnesses of this man’s miracles (v. 22),
- ☛ ****Even though they were guilty of Jesus’ murder in the fullest sense of “responsibility”; it had been done only through God’s “counsel and foreknowledge” (i.e., according to God’s will, prophecy, and eternal plan, v. 23),**
- ☛ ****“Jesus of Nazareth” did not stay in the grave, he was raised from the dead by God’s power! (v. 24).**

These are the FACTS!

- **15 Prophecy (**vs. 25-28): generic prophecies about the “Christ”:**
 - ☛ ****Made by David, and made in the “first person”; so, it could lead one to think David was speaking of himself.**
 - ****Gist of the prophecy is that “his” (i.e., “the Christ”) soul would remain joyful and hopeful even in death, because “he” would not remain in the grave or face its “corruption” (i.e., decay) (vs. 25-28).**

This is the PROPHECY!

- **16 Inspired interpretation: inspired interpretation of David’s prophecy (**vs. 29-31):**
 - ☛ Even though David spoke in the first person (vs. 25-28) he did not speak of himself, because...
 - ☛ ****David (unlike the “Christ”) remains in the grave of which they were fully aware (v. 29), Therefore, what David prophesied was that...**
 - ☛ ****One of his (David’s) descendants, “the Christ” (still generic at this point) would sit on his throne (v. 30)(note: David’s throne = God’s throne),**
 - ☛ ****This “kingship” or “reigning” would be accomplished by “the resurrection of the Christ” (still generic)(v. 31); “His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption...”**

This is the INTERPRETATION!

- **17 Conclusion—Peter connects facts and prophecy (**vs. 32-36):**
 - ☛ ****Again, “Jesus of Nazareth” has been raised from the dead (v. 32); therefore...**
 - ☛ ****He (i.e., “Jesus of Nazareth”) has been “exalted to the right hand of God” and has “received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit” (i.e., received what God had promised David through prophecy; i.e., to sit on his throne as God’s KING!)(v. 33),**

- ☛ **18** Even though David used the first person (vv. 25-28) the promise was not to him. No, the one exalted to the right hand of the “LORD” (Jehovah) was David’s “Lord” (i.e., David’s superior) “Jesus of Nazareth”! (vs. 34-35),
 - ☛ ****“Therefore”** (final conclusive statement) in view of the evidence offered by the inspired apostle there can be only one conclusion: “Jesus of Nazareth” is “both Lord and Christ” (v. 36; cf. 1 Tim. 6:14-15; Rom. 1:4).

****“...his audience should have recognized that Jesus had been exalted to rule. There should have been no doubt that the one they had crucified was now exalted to the right hand of God, ruling as both Lord and Christ. Both of these terms indicate his position of rule. Lord signifies the possession of authority. Christ is basically a Greek term which means “anointed one.” The Hebrew term is Messiah. It was a designation sometimes given to kings because of the anointment of oil they received. Peter was affirming that Jesus was now officially exalted to his position of rule. Jesus rules through his law. Hence, it is obvious that his reign over men began whenever his law began to be proclaimed as the law to govern mankind. This was what was happening on Pentecost.”** (*Truth Commentaries: The Book of Acts*, Johnny Stringer, p. 38)
- (8) Surely, we can dramatically see God exercising His **sovereignty** as He guides all of human history to place His Son on the “throne of heaven” (i.e., indeed the “throne of the Universe”!) Something which He had promised **NUMEROUS** times up to a 1,000 years in advance of the fact! Gen. 3:15; Eph. 3:11
- (9) Surely, we can appreciate the **sovereignty** of God since His Son gained His “kingship” (i.e., rule) not by conquering earthly foes, but by overcoming the ultimate foe, the power of the grave...SIN! (cf. **1 Cor. 15:55-57**: “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? 56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”)

E. 19 God demonstrates His **sovereignty** through **salvation**:

- (1) Read: ****Eph. 1:3-11**
- (2) Salvation is an expression of God’s **sovereignty** because...
 - ✓ ****We** are saved solely as a result of God choosing us! (v. 4; not as Calvinists teach, but we are chosen “in Him” by answering the call of Christ’s gospel and obeying the truth, 2 Tim. 2:10 ****2 Thess. 2:13-14**; Heb. 5:9),
 - ✓ ****God** “predestined us to adoption as sons” “according to the good pleasure of His will”; v. 5 (not Calvinistic predestination, but we are predestined to adoption if we are “in Christ”; if we answer the call of His gospel, if we obey the truth and remain faithful, 2 Thess. 2:13-14; 2 Tim. 2:10; Gal. 3:26-27; Eph. 1:3; 5:9; ****Col. 1:21-23**),
 - ✓ **20** Our salvation comes through “the riches of His grace”; v. 7 (grace does not preclude faith and works, Eph. 2:8-10; Jas. 2:24, 26),
 - ✓ ****God** reveals and provides salvation “in Christ” through “His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself”; it was ENTIRELY of His choosing, v. 9 (again, God chose words we must follow to be saved, Acts 11:14; Jas. 1:21),
 - ✓ ****Only** God’s children are “predestined” to receive God’s “inheritance” (eternal life) “according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will”; v. 11 (doesn’t mean we cannot forfeit our reward, Col. 1:21-23, it just means that our reward, and the means for attaining it, have been entirely provided by God’s grace, because He purposed to do so, **1 Jn. 3:1**: “Behold what manner of love the Father has

bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!"; **Rom. 5:8**: "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.").

- ✓ That God has chosen to save those "in Christ" will reverberate throughout all eternity as the redeemed sing praises to "the glory of His grace"! Eph. 1:6

III. CONCLUSION: 21

1. Do you appreciate the awesomeness of God's **sovereignty**?
2. Through Christ, God rules the Universe He created! (cf. Matt. 28:18) Christ is **THE sovereign** **THE Super King**; (1 Tim. 6:15-16) **THE one possessing complete and absolute power and authority.**
3. On this side of eternity not everyone understands, appreciates, or subjects themselves to God's **sovereignty**, but sometime that will all change!

Jn. 5:28-29: "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 and come forth; those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation."

1 Cor. 15:24-26: "Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death." (cf. 2 Cor. 5:10; 2 Thess. 1:7-9)

Phil. 2:10-11: "that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

4. Will you subject yourself to God's **sovereignty NOW**, this very day! 2 Cor. 6:2