

The God of the Testimony

(The Sovereignty of God)

We have established the fact the bible is a supernatural book, a revelation from God. It is God's special revelation to us. The revealing of the mysteries of God which have been kept hidden for ages but now have been revealed to us through God's Holy apostles and prophets (Eph 3:5). But what does the bible tell us about God? I found an interesting definition of God in one of my biblical dictionaries. This is what it said:

GOD - The most fundamental teaching of the Bible and Christian theology is that God exists and is ultimately in control of the universe. This is the foundation on which all Christian theology is built.

Now to this statement I say the "yes" and the "Amen." But further that this understanding of God is being suppressed by the culture we live in and also that if it is not proclaimed in the church, we shall lose this true and proper understanding of God.

I think that most of us here believe "*that God exists.*" The bible makes no attempt to prove that God exists. Rather, the universe is the **affidavit of his existence**. To this I will mention only that God calls us to account of the knowledge of Himself saying:

Rom 1:19-20 - 19 since **what may be known about God is plain to them**, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-his eternal power and divine nature-**have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made**, so that men are without excuse. NIV

But what of this second statement-"*that God is ultimately in control of the universe.*"

That which this world fails to recognize, realize, and works overtime to suppress, is that God is in control of the universe. It is something that people abhor, despise, and show their utter contempt for every time they take His Glorious name in vain. It is what we call the "Sovereignty of God." And this I proclaim to you this morning.

The bible says that God is Sovereign. He possesses absolute dominion and authority over all things. The word "sovereign" is used 303 times in the bible and always refers to the Most High God, ruler of heaven and earth and the Creator of the same.

Just think how ridiculous it would be to say that God created the universe, but he is not in control of what takes place in it. Well the truth is God not only controls nature and history, but He literally sustains the entire universe by his power, and orders the events of his entire creation to accomplish his purposes and plans. As Daniel the prophet writes:

Daniel 4:35 - All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. **He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand** or say to him: "What have you done?" NIV

God created all things – The bible makes it very clear that God created all that is.

God created everything from nothing, thus revealing His Almighty power and sovereign nature. He fashioned it as He saw fit, and arrayed it in the manner that pleased Him best. He hung the sun on nothing, and flung the stars into their place, calling each one by name. And why, for His own good pleasure and purpose. He set the fixed order of planets in the darkness of space, and placed the tiniest microcosms in the sea. Behold then the exercise of divine sovereignty long before man ever saw the light!

Gen 1:1 - 1:1 In the beginning **God created the heavens and the earth**. NIV

Ex 20:11 - 11 For **in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them**, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. NIV

Isa 40:26-28 - 26 Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: **Who created all these?**

He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? **The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.** He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. NIV

Jeremiah 32:17 - 17 "Ah, Sovereign LORD, **you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power** and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you. NIV

John 1:1-3 - 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 **Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.** NIV

Colossians 1:16-18 - 16 For **by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.** 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. NIV

God possesses all things – Since God made everything from nothing by His own good pleasure and will, He then is the rightful owner, with full rights and privileges to do as He sees fit in heaven and on earth. God is the Owner, Proprietor, and King of everything that can be named!

Job 41:11 - 1 Who has a claim against me that I must pay? **Everything under heaven belongs to me.** NIV

Ex 19:5-6 - 5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. **Although the whole earth is mine,**

Deut 10:14-15 - 14 To the **LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it.** NIV

1 Chronicles 29:11 - 1 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, **for everything in heaven and earth is yours.** Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. NIV

Ps 24:1 - The **earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;**

He has made all things for his purpose and plan and Glory – God being intelligent in nature, designed and created His creation for many diverse but specific purposes. He has in mind a very definite purpose for everything that happens under the sun. To sum it up generally, whatsoever happens is all to the glory of God. If the righteous praise Him, He is glorified. If the wicked curse Him, He is glorified. He is glorified in the reward of the righteous, and eternal damnation of the wicked. Everything that God does ultimately reflects the Glory which He possesses.

Romans 11:33-36 - 33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! 34 "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" 35 "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" 36 **For from him and through him and to him are all things.** To him be the glory forever! Amen. NIV

Revelation 4:11-"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power:

for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

Proverbs 16:4 - 4 The **LORD works out everything for his own ends**-- even the wicked for a day of disaster. NIV

Isaiah 43:7 - 7 everyone who is called by my name, **whom I created for my glory**, whom I formed and made." NIV

Isaiah 54:16 - 16 "See, it is I who created the blacksmith who fans the coals into flame and forges a weapon fit for its work. And it is **I who have created the destroyer to work havoc**; NIV

Exodus 9:16 - 16 But **I have raised you up for this very purpose**, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth. NIV

Acts 17:24-31 - 24 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. 26 **From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.** 27 ***God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him,*** though he is not far from each one of us.

God controls nature – At the command of God burst forth the great springs of the deep in the days of Noah. With His voice opened He the heavens to pour down rain for 40 days and nights. Tornado and tempest, lightning and thunder, winds and waves- each one the servant of God sent to do His bidding and performing all His good pleasure. There is not a maverick storm in all the ages that He did not saddle and ride!

Ex 9:22-24 - 23 When Moses stretched out his staff toward the sky, **the LORD sent thunder and hail, and lightning flashed down to the ground**. So the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt; 24 hail fell and lightning flashed back and forth. **It was the worst storm in all the land of Egypt since it had become a nation**. NIV

Job 37:1-13 - "At this my heart pounds and leaps from its place. 2 Listen! Listen to the roar of his voice, to the rumbling that comes from his mouth. 3 **He unleashes his lightning** beneath the whole heaven and sends it to the ends of the earth. 4 After that comes the sound of his roar; he thunders with his majestic voice. When his voice resounds, he holds nothing back. 5 God's voice thunders in marvelous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding. 6 **He says to the snow, 'Fall on the earth,' and to the rain shower, 'Be a mighty downpour.'** 7 So that all men he has made may know his work, he stops every man from his labor. 8 The animals take cover; they remain in their dens. 9 **The tempest comes out from its chamber, the cold from the driving winds.** 10 **The breath of God produces ice, and the broad waters become frozen.** 11 He loads the clouds with moisture; he scatters his lightning through them. 12 **At his direction** they swirl around over the face of the whole earth to do whatever he commands them. 13 He brings the clouds to punish men, or to water his earth and show his love. NIV

Mark 4:38-41 - 38 Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" 39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" **Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.** 40 He said to his disciples, "Why are you so

afraid? Do you still have no faith?" 41 They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" NIV

God holds the power of life and death – Man's days are determined by God, He has set the limit and they cannot be exceeded. No one lives unless God decrees it and no one dies unless God decrees it. He is the Author, Giver, and the Sustainer of every living thing. He holds in His hand the lives of His beloved ones and that of His enemies also. Even Satan the father of lies, the destroyer, owes his next breathe to the Almighty!

Isaiah 42:5 - 5 This is what God the LORD says-- he who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, **who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it:** NIV

Job 34:14-15- "If it were his intention and **he withdrew his spirit and breath, all mankind would perish together and man would return to the dust.**"

Job 14:5 - 5 **Man's days are determined;** you have decreed the number of his months and have set limits he cannot exceed. NIV

John 11:25-27 - 25 Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life.** He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:43-44 - 43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "**Lazarus, come out!**" 44 **The dead man came out,** his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

Acts 17:25 - 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because **he himself gives all men life and breath** and everything else. NIV

God arranges the circumstances of history according to his purpose and plan- God is very diligently governing this creation He has made. It is all coming to pass exactly like He planned it, He will be sure to see that it does. The rain falls on the good and the bad, both peace and calamity come from God. Every authority which is on the earth has been established by God. All the events of human history had the divine approval before one of them ever came to pass. God rules on the Throne in heaven!

Lam 3:37-40 - 37 Who can speak and have it happen if the Lord has not decreed it? 38 **Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that both calamities and good things come?** 39 Why should any living man complain when punished for his sins? 40 Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the LORD. NIV

Ephesians 1:11 - 11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined **according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,**

Ecclesiastes 7:13-14 - 13 Consider what God has done: **Who can straighten what he has made crooked?** 14 When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider: **God has made the one as well as the other.** NIV

Isaiah 25:1 - O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness **you have done marvelous things, things planned long ago.** NIV

Isaiah 46:11 - 11 From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. **What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do.**

Acts 4:27-28 - 27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. 28 **They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.**

What then does this mean to us? Having therefore seen that God does indeed rule over and govern the world, which He created, what does this mean to us in our everyday lives?

It means that we had better recognize *where our life and breathe comes from*. It means that we should be very careful to make sure our lives are righteous before Him *to whom we must give an account*. It means we better be sure that we are found in Christ, *not having a righteousness of our own*, but that which comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. (Rom 3:22)

For the Christian, the understanding of Divine Sovereignty should be the most comforting and joyous truth we can embrace. *It is a most awe-inspiring truth indeed!* But for the wicked, it is a truth of dreaded terror. He will *find his life in the hands of an angry God one day, with none to rescue and no more opportunity to repent*. For God will certainly demand an account of everyone's life. As Solomon declares:

Ecc 12:13-14 - 3 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole [duty] of man. 14 For **God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.** NIV

Let the Christian consider this – That God is called their “*Father who is in Heaven.*” This God who rules over the affairs of the entire world is indeed “OUR FATHER.”

Now this is a reality which comforts the soul.

Here is truth to give the soul rest.

When trial or trouble comes my way, it is God who holds me in the palm of His hand. More than this, we have the promise of eternal life with God in that place where there is no more crying or dying or pain. God our Father is even working everything for our own good having at all times our best interest in His mind. He will care for us, He will shepherd us, he will protect us and love us until we reach our home!

Romans 8:28-30 - 28 And we know that **in all things God works for the good of those who love him**, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew **he also predestined** to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those **he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.**

Friends if God is for us, who can be against us? If we have the Almighty as our Father, of what shall we be afraid? If we have found ourselves in the Lord Jesus Christ, we can rest assured that we have the favor of God, and the promise of His protection and guidance!

Can we say with King David:

Ps 18:1-3 - I will love You, O LORD, my strength. **2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, the stronghold of my life.**

Maybe the Lord has spoken to your heart today, and you realize there are some areas in your life that you need to surrender to His control? You need to set Him apart as Lord. You no longer want to live by the dictates of our own will, but want to let Him be the Sovereign Lord to you! Is there anyone who would raise a hand and say, I need to let the Lord reign in my life?