

Behold our sovereign God

All things from Him
through Him
& to Him

(Mitchell L. Chase)

1. A tapestry of Majesty: The sovereignty of God over Creation

1.1 Total control in undisturbed majesty

- a. *The heavens*
- b. *The earth*
- c. *Weather*
- d. *Animals*
- e. *People*

1.2 Conclusion

2. From the mouth of the most high: the sovereignty of God over sin and suffering

2.1 What the bible says about God and evil

- a. *Evil's beginning is unexplained*
- b. *God decrees sin and suffering*
 - the LORD gives and takes away
 - God is sovereign over secondary causes
 - God sends both good and evil
 - The Bible gives us verbs
 - God intends or prevents evil for a reason
 - Blessing and calamity come from God's mouth
- c. *God is not evil*
 - God is holy and hates sin
 - Sinners are morally responsible and accountable
- d. *God's sovereignty is a rock of rest*

2.2 Conclusion

3. The worst evil for the greatest good: the sovereignty of God over the cross

3.1 The bible's testimony of the tension

- a. *the cross and human wickedness*
 - Jesus faced opposition from birth
 - Jesus was tried and crucified
- b. *The cross and divine sovereignty*
 - the apostles preached a predestined cross
 - the Gospels teach a prophesied cross
 - God was sovereign over spiritual opposition to Jesus

3.2 Lessons from the cross about sin and suffering

- a. *God's will is both revealed and concealed*
 - God seems to will what he elsewhere prohibits
 - Is a 'two wills' model an imposition onto Scripture?
 - Does a 'two wills' model mean God is double-minded?
 - How can God delight in plans that include evil?
- b. *Sin and suffering serve the purposes of God*
 - God rules with purpose
 - The cross answers the problem of evil
 - God's purposes are often concealed
 - Suffering serves Christian sanctification

3.3 Conclusion

4. the rights and righteousness of the Potter: the sovereignty of God over salvation and judgment

4.1 The biblical evidence for the predestination of sinners

- a. *a chosen people*
- b. *predestined corporately and individually*
- c. *predestined according to God's will*
- d. *not every sinner chosen for salvation*
- e. *predestined for a purpose*
- f. *praise for predestination*

4.2 Adopting the bible's assumptions

- a. *Sinners deserve judgment, not mercy*
 - we are wrath-deserving rebels
 - predestination is not unfair
- b. *Predestination seems objectionable*
 - Paul anticipates the protest of injustice
 - Foreknown faith does not condition divine election
 - Conditional election is neither biblical nor good news
 - Paul anticipates the protest of God's right to judge
- c. *God possesses sovereign rights*
 - God is free to show mercy
 - Paul rebukes the objector for arrogance
- d. *Predestination doesn't nullify prayer*
 - the bible's logic corrects human logic
 - the writer of Romans 9 prayed for unbelievers
 - God ordains the means of prayer
- e. *Predestination doesn't nullify evangelism*
 - God ordains the means of evangelism
 - Predestination compels missional sacrifice
- f. *Predestination doesn't nullify obedience*
 - God's elect are being sanctified
 - Election secures both salvation and obedience

4.3 Conclusion

5. From creation to consummation: the sovereignty of God over history and the future

5.1 Our God who acts with unstoppable purpose

5.2 God actively plans, ordains, and directs

- a. God is more than a spectator and responder*
- b. God directs the course of history*

5.3 God plans and acts with purpose

5.4 God's purposeful plans cannot be thwarted

- a. God is sovereign of his opposition*
- b. No one can stay God's hand*
- c. God's decrees prevail over his opposition*

5.5 The hope of what is to come

5.6 The resurrection of the dead

5.7 The judgment of unbelievers

5.8 The renewal of creation

5.9 Conclusion