The Sovereignty of God

Our Response

The Sovereign King

God is in heaven and having made the world by His own power out of nothing, and is even now sustaining everything by His powerful Word, God is the Sovereign King above all earthly and heavenly powers and authorities. As the Scripture says…

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

God possesses absolute dominion and authority over all things. So He is said to sit on a “throne in heaven!” 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 own purposes and plans. Friends, we must understand that what is happening in the world is happening at the express purpose and will of God, who rules the world and all who are in it.

Psalms 47:7-8 - 7 For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with a skillful psalm. 8 God reigns over the nations. God sits on His holy throne. NASB

He is "the Lord of Heaven and Earth" (Acts 17:24) and whatsoever happens in the world, happens because God has permitted, indeed He has decreed it to happen (the Decrees of God). Although there is much evil in the world, which God hates, He is allowing these things to achieve His eternal purposes which will, without a doubt, comes to pass.

Psalms 135:5-6 - 5 For I know that the LORD is great, And that our Lord is above all gods. 6 Whatever the LORD pleases, He does. In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps. NASB

God not only permits the events of human history, but has ordained them from eternity past (foreordination), and is furthermore actively involved in seeing that they all come to pass (providence), fulfilling all of His plans and purposes.

Proverbs 16:4 - 4 The LORD has made everything for its own purpose. Even the wicked for the day of evil. NASB

That the divine purpose could meet with frustration is unthinkable, for then it could not be the divine purpose! Failure of God’s purpose is failure of His sovereignty. God cannot be God and NOT be Sovereign, for then He would NOT be God. Scripture is very clear about this!

Ephesians 1:11 - 1 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will. NASB

Of course this Sovereignty and Providence of God extends through the entire Plan of Redemption to His blessed and Holy Church, the faithful in Christ Jesus. The chosen people of God will go free from the slavery and bondage to sin, and Satan the evil world ruler who has bound them for these many years will be dashed under the feet of His saints, whom He has chosen out of the world, and they will receive their allotted inheritance in the Promised Land, even Heaven itself! There they will united to their husband and King, and lie down in peace and rest forever in the Kingdom of God!

Romans 16:20 - 20 And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. NASB

1 Peter 1:3-5 - 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you. 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. NASB

Revelation 19:5-9 - "Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great." 6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude and as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. 7
"Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." 8 And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 And he said to me, "Write, ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’" And he said to me, "These are true words of God.” NASB

Now the fact that events are seen to be under the control of God is plainly evident in Scripture. In fact this is the main theme of the whole Bible! God is Providentially working His will in all things to accomplish His own purposes for the display of His own Glory, Name and Power! God is bringing His world to an expected End, the End which He has purposed from all eternity! At the appointed time, all earthly powers and authorities will be brought into subjection to the Sovereign authority of God, His purposes will be summed up and accomplished, and all will be at rest forever and ever in the Kingdom of God!

Isaiah 46:9-11 - "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, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'; 11 Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it. NASB

A Worthy Response
How shall we respond to these things we have learned? If God is indeed who He claims to be, The Sovereign Living Lord of Heaven and Earth, then it is only fitting that we respond to His great plans and purposes with a worthy response. That is a response which is proper and altogether worthy of His wonderful Name! Below we have outlined several appropriate responses to this knowledge of God’s Sovereignty.

Godly Fear
Because God is the Creator and Sustainer of all that is, it is appropriate to fear Him for His great Power and Majesty! The Bible plainly declares that God is worthy to be feared!

Revelation 15:3-4 - Great and marvelous are Thy works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Thy ways, Thou King of the nations. 4 "Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? For Thou alone art holy; For all the nations will come and worship before Thee, For Thy righteous acts have been revealed." NASB

Consider the saints of old and when they happened upon a vision of God they were greatly humbled. Upon seeing a vision of God, in reverence and awe Job exclaimed;

Job 42:5-6 - 5 "I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees Thee; 6 Therefore I retract, And I repent in dust and ashes." NASB

Or what of Isaiah, when he caught a vision of the thrice Holy God, He recognized his great sins he said;

Isaiah 6:5 - "Woe is me, for I am ruined!, Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips.; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." NASB

Or consider the prophet Daniel, in chapter 8 he sees a vision from God and when it was over he was overcome by it and he said;

Daniel 8:27 - 27 Then I, Daniel, was exhausted and sick for days. Then I got up again and carried on the king's business; but I was astounded at the vision, and there was none to explain it. NASB

Or when in chapter 10 he actually see the Lord Himself and tells of that great occasion;

Daniel 10:7-12 - 7 Now I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, while the men who were with me did not see the vision: nevertheless, a great dread fell on them, and they ran away to hide themselves. 8 So I was left alone and saw this great vision: yet no strength was left in me, for my natural color turned to a deathly pallor, and I retained no strength. 9 But I heard the sound of his words; and as soon as I heard the sound of his words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground. 10 Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. 11 And he said to me, "O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.” And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. 12 Then he said to me, "Do not be
Daniel was afraid of God, and rightly so! A mere sight of Him can kill a man! (Exodus 33:20). When the Apostle John had a vision of the glorified Christ in Revelation chapter one, he was terrified and said;

Revelation 1:17-18 - 17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as a dead man. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, 18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. NASB

All of these responses to God have this in common, fear! When a man or woman sees themselves in proper relation to God’s Holiness, the first and proper response is one of deep respect and reverence, even a trembling fear of the purity and Holiness of God. This is because we are sinners and have greatly offended His purity and power, and were it not for His mercy to us, we would be consumed by the fire of His wrath! Therefore in this reverence we are to be thankful that He has shown us mercy and we are to do it with a life lived in reverence to His purity, showing the genuine nature of our respect for His Holy Word and Power! It is this person in whom God delights!

Isaiah 66:1-2 - 6:1 Thus says the LORD, "Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest? 2 "For My hand made all these things, Thus all these things came into being," declares the LORD. "But to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word. NASB

Psalm 34:15-19 - 15 The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry. 16 The face of the LORD is against evildoers, To cut off the memory of them from the earth. 17 The righteous cry and the LORD hears, And saves those who are crushed in spirit. 19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous; But the LORD delivers him out of them all. NASB

Psalm 51:15-17 - 5 O Lord, open my lips, That my mouth may declare Thy praise. 16 For Thou dost not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; Thou art not pleased with burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise. NASB

Worship and Adoration

When we speak of worship we speak of ascribing value to something. If someone worships something, they treasure it and adore it and value it to the point of action. When we consider the worship of God, we speak of what is supremely valuable and worthy of our adoration! To say that God is most valuable is an understatement. In fact, God is what brings definition to value. In other words to say that we value God, is to say that we esteem Him, that we estimate Him to be most worthy of our adoration, our praise and even our worship. This is obviously because He is the definition of that which is good, honorable and worthy of high esteem. As the scripture says,

Exodus 15:11 - 11 "Who is like Thee among the gods, O LORD? Who is like Thee, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders? NASB

Therefore we esteem God above everything else because He is so high above, or so much more worthy than anything else because everything else derives it value in relation to God because He is the standard for what is good or worthy of esteem, in fact He is the creator of everything. Things derive their value based on the purpose for which they were created.

Revelation 4:11 - 11 "Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created." NASB

Why is God worthy to receive glory and honor? Because at His will they “exist and were created.” Nothing has its existence except at the will of God. Nothing has its being, except by His design and continued Providence. God deemed it fit and good to create the world and mankind upon it, how could we do anything less than pay Him homage as the high and lofty One. Indeed, anything less than esteeming God above everything else is entirely sinful, in fact this is the definition of idolatry and a violation of the first commandment;

Exodus 20:3 - 3 "You shall have no other gods before Me. NASB
More than this, sin in actuality is a failure to glorify God or a failure to properly esteem Him. In fact, **the very nature of sin is PRIDE, it is self-exaltation.** It is to say that our will and our desire is of greater value than God’s will or God’s desire. Rather than esteem Him as Lord and Master (who He truly is), when we sin, we esteem ourselves and our own personal authority as higher than God’s. This is the definition of sin, to transgress the law, character and will of God.

R**omans 1:18-22** - 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven **against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men**, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 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. 21 For even **though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks**; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. NASB

Therefore we see the great importance of valuing God for who He is, and honoring Him and giving Him thanks for the gracious gift of life He has given us. The utmost importance of this issue cannot be stressed enough and it is made crystal clear in the scripture…..

**1 Chronicles 29:11-13** - 11 Thine, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Thine is the dominion, O LORD, and Thou dost exalt Thyself as head over all. 12 Both riches and honor come from Thee, and Thou dost rule over all, and in Thy hand is power and might; and it lies in Thy hand to make great, and to strengthen everyone. 13 Now therefore, our God, we thank Thee, and praise Thy glorious name. NASB

So when we speak of “valuing God” we ought to be moved to the point of worship! That is to the point of **ascribing** worth and value to God. To open our mouth and proclaim the glory of His greatness and power, and to exalt Him with the words of our mouth and the thoughts and meditations of our hearts! The authority of His **MAJESTY** is the most regal and beautiful, stately and splendid, magnificent grandeur of all. Therefore we should ascribe to Him praise!

**Psalms 96:4-9** - For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. 5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens. 6 Splendor and majesty are before Him, Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. 7 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. 8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory of His name; Bring an offering, and come into His courts. 9 Worship the LORD in holy attire; Tremble before Him, all the earth. NASB

We are to praise Him and give Him thanks! We are to treasure Him and adore for His goodness and power! This is what is appropriate for the creature, to give glory and honor to the Great Creator!

**Psalm 106:1** - ```Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting. ```NASB

**Psalm 33:1** - ```Sing for joy in the LORD, O you righteous ones; Praise is becoming to the upright. ```NASB

**A Devoted Love**

Because God is infinitely valuable and worthy of worship, it is only appropriate then that we should be devoted to Him with an intense commitment of love. That is why of all the things which God has commanded us to do, He has commanded us to love Him! In fact, when Jesus sums up the commandments, He does it with this great command!

**Matthew 22:36-40** - 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And He said to him, "’You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 ’This is the great and foremost commandment.’ 39 ’The second is like it, ’You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets." NASB

In other words, says Jesus, this is the meaning and application of the whole Bible for us, to love God! This is why He calls it the “**great and foremost commandment!”** This is what is **MOST** important in life, the main thing, the first thing, the great thing, the foremost thing, the thing which is front and above all others.