The Sovereignty of God
Part 1: God's Nature

God's Sovereignty Defined
God is Sovereign. But what does this mean? The word "sovereignty" means Supreme Authority. In the earthly realm, it speaks of one who holds the highest place of authority such as a monarch, president, or ruler of a province or territory. However when this term is applied to God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, it takes on a much fuller meaning. God rules from heaven over the world He created out of nothing by His own power; He also sustains everything in the world by His powerful Word. Scripture describes God as The Sovereign King above all earthly and heavenly powers and authorities.

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

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 is not in control of what takes place in it. Scripture teaches that God not only controls nature and history, but 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 all world events happen at the express purpose and will of God, who rules the world and all who are in it. He is "Lord of Heaven and Earth" (Acts 17:24). Everything that happens in the world happens because God has permitted, indeed has decreed, it to happen (The Decrees of God). Even the evil in the world, which God hates, exists because it is necessary to achieve His eternal purposes, which will certainly come to pass. God not only permits the events of human history, but has ordained them from eternity past (Foreordination). Furthermore, He is actively involved in seeing that they all come to pass (Providence) so as to fulfill all of His plans and purposes.

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

It is unthinkable that God's divine purpose could meet with frustration, for then it could not be God's divine purpose! Failure of God's purpose would be failure of His sovereignty. God cannot be God and be less than sovereign. Scripture is very clear that a less-than-sovereign God would NOT be God.

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

Even Satan was created by God to achieve the very purpose for which God made him.

Isaiah 10:15: Is the axe to boast itself over the one who chops with it? Is the saw to exalt itself over the one who wields it? That would be like a club wielding those who lift it, or like a rod lifting him who is not wood.

Isaiah 54:16: Behold, I Myself have created the smith who blows the fire of coals, And brings out a weapon for its work; And I have created the destroyer to ruin.

Question #1: What does the word “sovereignty” mean in a worldly sense?

Question #2: How does the Bible use the word “sovereignty” in relation to God?
Question #3: How does God’s sovereignty relate to the accomplishment of His divine purpose?

Question #4: How does a good understanding of God’s sovereignty help us explain the existence of Satan and evil?

Question #5: Why is sovereignty a necessary attribute of God?

Exposition of 1 Chronicles 29:11-13

Let us closely examine how this Scripture passage describes the Sovereignty of God.

1 Chronicles 29:11-13:  

11Thine, 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.  

12Both 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.  

13Now therefore, our God, we thank Thee, and praise Thy glorious name.

Thine, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty: What words can describe the greatness of God and His power? We cannot fully understand or describe the greatness of God because He is infinite and we are finite. Listen as Scripture speaks of His greatness: His is the power and glory and victory AND majesty.

God is the source of all power.

Jeremiah 32:17: Ah Lord GOD! Behold, Thou hast made the heavens and the earth by Thy great power and by Thine outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for Thee,

God’s is the glory.

Revelation 15:3-4: And they sang the song of Moses the bond-servant of God and the song of the Lamb, saying, “Great and marvelous are Thy works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Thy ways, Thou King of the nations.

4Who 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.”

God will always prevail in victory against His enemies.

Isaiah 42:13: The LORD will go forth like a warrior, He will arouse His zeal like a man of war. He will utter a shout, yes, He will raise a war cry. He will prevail against His enemies.

God’s authoritative MAJESTY is the most regal and beautiful, stately and splendid, awesome and magnificent grandeur of all.