Now therefore, our God, we thank Thee, and praise Thy glorious name: Now here is a proper response to the knowledge of God’s Sovereignty. We should first acknowledge His greatness and power, and then humbly thank Him for WHO He is and what He has given us. More than this we should praise His glorious name!

Psalm 106:1: Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
Psalm 33:1: Sing for joy in the LORD, O you righteous ones; Praise is becoming to the upright.

Question #14: What are some practical ways in which you might acknowledge God’s greatness and power, thank Him for who He is and what He has given you, and praise His glorious name?

Summary
We have seen that the Bible clearly teaches that God is sovereign over all His creation. We have also seen that the nature of this sovereignty is absolute and supreme authority, exercised over all things He has created. Our dear brother Charles Hodge defines sovereignty well in his work entitled, Systematic Theology:1 “Sovereignty is not a property of the divine nature, but a prerogative arising out of the perfections of the Supreme Being. If God be a Spirit, and therefore a person, infinite, eternal, and invariable in his being and perfections, the Creator and Preserver of the universe, He is of right its absolute sovereign. Infinite wisdom, goodness, and power, with the right of possession, which belongs to God in all his creatures, are the immutable foundation of his dominion.” Dear reader, hear now the word of the Lord!

Deuteronomy 4:39: Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that the LORD, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other.

Application
How do we apply this doctrine to our life; that is, how must it affect us in our thinking and our living?

- We must recognize Him as the sovereign authority in our lives by humbly submitting to His will. (Deuteronomy 4:39-40, 27:10; Job 2:10; Lamentations 3:37-41; Jeremiah 44:23; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Luke 11:28)
- We must love God in His sovereignty and find our joy in the fact that the goodness of God rules over our lives, decisions, and everything that we are and all that we have. (Matthew 22:37-39; Romans 12:12)
- We must realize that trust in God’s sovereign and gracious hand allows us to rest in amazing security. (Romans 8:28,31)

Why is this doctrine important?
- The truth of God’s sovereignty explains the being, nature, essence, and destiny of all things. (Revelation 14:6-7)

The truth of God’s sovereignty gives meaning and significance to the way we live our lives. (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Proverbs 1:7; Psalm 147:11, 112:1)

- Since sovereignty is “a prerogative arising out of the perfections of the Supreme Being,”² rightly understanding God’s sovereignty equips us to think rightly about Him and His Kingdom. All theological heresy flows from misunderstanding the character and nature of God. (Proverbs 9:10)

**Why is this doctrine controversial?**
The basic nature of sin is rebellion against God’s sovereignty. From the time Adam and Eve first decided to disobey God’s commandment in the Garden of Eden, their descendants have sought to exalt their own autonomy in resistance to God’s authority. Sinful humanity is naturally repulsed by the idea of submitting to Someone of higher authority and continually seeks to usurp God’s authority. This is the highest crime against God and worthy of death. (Proverbs 29:15; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:10-18; 8:7-8)

**Question #15:** How will your study thus far immediately impact your typical thoughts, words, attitudes and actions? (Be very specific in your answer.)

**Thoughts:**

__________________________

**Words:**

__________________________

**Attitudes:**

__________________________

**Actions:**

__________________________

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**Sovereignty and God’s Attributes**
God’s sovereign authority works in perfect harmony with all of His attributes to manifest God’s perfection in every way. Consider just a few examples:

**Sovereignty and Wisdom:** God uses His authority in accordance with perfect wisdom. God always makes decisions and executes His authority in ways that fulfill the eternal counsel of His will. Everything He does fulfills the purpose for which He planned it.

*Jeremiah 10:12:* It is He who made the earth by His power, Who established the world by His wisdom; And by His understanding He has stretched out the heavens.

**Sovereignty and Love:** God’s authority is always dispensed with concern for those He loves. God’s motivation, in the exercise of His authority, is to benefit and bless those to whom He obligates Himself by covenant – indeed to all who fear Him and call upon Him.

*Psalm 103:11-13:* ¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. ¹²As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. ¹³Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.

² Hodge, 440.
Sovereignty and Power: God has the ability to bring to pass whatsoever He pleases; thus, the exercise of His authority cannot be effectively resisted. God brings to pass whatever His wisdom and love decide. If He could not do what He wills and perform all His pleasure, He would not be 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,* 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”; 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.

Sovereignty and Knowledge: God uses His authority with perfect knowledge because He is the source of perfect knowledge. Nothing escapes the attention of God nor does anything invalidate His purposes. God’s authority is always exercised with complete knowledge of what has happened, is happening, and will happen as a result. God never errs, never changes, and never overlooks anything.

Isaiah 40:14: With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge, And informed Him of the way of understanding?

Sovereignty and Holiness: God’s use of His authority is always motivated by His hatred of sin, spotless purity, and zeal for His own honor. He expects His creatures to revere His holiness and issues serious warnings and threats to those who fail to honor Him. God must be zealous for His own honor because He is truly honorable and most worthy of praise and glory. A failure to revere and honor God’s holiness is the very definition of sin itself.

Revelation 14:6-7: And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people; *and he said with a loud voice,* Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters."

1 John 3:10: By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

Sovereignty and Righteousness: The foundation of everything God does is justice. All of His judgments are morally perfect and upright. In fact, God Himself is the very standard of what is just and righteous. God’s authority is always exercised in perfect righteousness. Whatever is right, is right because it is approved by God.

Deuteronomy 32:4: The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, **Righteous and upright is He.**

Since all of these things are true of God, who is the highest authority, we have grounds for tremendous security and exceeding joy. We can rest in the security of God’s righteous judgment and find in Him a refuge and strength in every adversity we face.

Psalm 5:11: But let all who take refuge in Thee be glad, Let them ever sing for joy; And mayest Thou shelter them, That those who love Thy name may exult in Thee.

Romans 8:28: And we know that **God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God,** to those who are called according to His purpose.

Question #16: Carefully consider what you have just studied about God’s sovereignty and His attributes. How does Scripture’s teaching on this subject encourage you to trust God completely and serve Him boldly?