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God is Sovereign - He is in Charge and in Control



By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #274 ~

Did you know that God is sovereign, that He is in control and in charge of all things, all events, and the entire world? Yes, He is, even though it may not seem like it, even though sin and wickedness in our country is worse than ever before. And how does God say it? *"Who can speak and have it happen if the Lord has not decreed it? Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that both calamities and good things come?"* Lamentations 3:37-38

We are witnessing an accelerated and devilish transformation of our country. When I think about what's going on in our society, this is what comes to mind: human trafficking, liars, totalitarianism, two-tiered justice, socialism, artificial intelligence, hate, Satan clubs in schools, massive debt, political and societal division, free speech?, anger, parents not parenting, leaders promoting evil, fentanyl deaths, schools teaching error and evil, transgenderism, major border problems, drag shows, selfishness, increasing surveillance, pride, anti-Christian hostility, the Ukraine war, millions of abortions, DEI, CRT, ESG, Marxism, Chinese infiltration, lack of respect, communism, spy balloons, stealing,

digital currency, ChatGPT, a chip in the hand, false teachers, sick churches, lawless D.A.s, criminals going free, greed, high inflation, racism, anti-racism, rampant immorality, nations uniting against US, people not fearing God, etc., etc.

After reading this, you might be quite discouraged, and want to throw in the towel and move to a quiet place in the country. What you need to do is believe this wonderful and powerful truth, that God is sovereign, even over evil (Acts 2:23-24, 4:27-28). He is reigning over all people and all things, and all that happens, even the evil, is part of His eternal and perfect plan – and it's leading to Christ's return to rapture the church and rule over the earth. *"God changes times and seasons"* (Dan. 2:21). *"His dominion is an eternal dominion… 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?'"* (Dan. 4:34-35). *"His* (the Most High's) *kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him."* Daniel 7:27b

What would it be like if God wasn't in charge, if He wasn't ordaining and orchestrating the events of this world? If you thought humans were in charge and could do whatever they want, you might go crazy. But in a way you cannot understand, God controls the lives of people and all that occurs in this world. *"Man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps"* (Prov. 16:9). *"The steps of man are ordained by the Lord. How then can man understand his way?"* (Prov. 20:24). *"The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord. He turns it wherever He wishes."* Proverbs 21:1

When I think of God's providential and sovereign working in this world, I think of four major areas – Israel, the church, your personal life, and everything else. Let's go over each of these:

First, there's Israel. It's obvious that God is directing the nation of Israel. Close to 4,000 years ago, God raised up Israel in the nation of

Egypt. After about 400 years, God led her out of Egypt, through the desert, and into the promised land. Later on, God exiled Israel because of her great sin – but mercifully, after 70 years, He brought her back to her land. Through the Jews, God brought Jesus into the world, and He lived a perfect life, died for our sins, and was raised from the dead. But the Jews rejected Jesus and His gospel message and so in 70AD, God scattered them all over the world. Exodus, Ezekiel 36-37, Luke 21:20-24, Luke 23-24

This dispersion lasted until the 1880's, at which time, God miraculously started bringing these homeless Jews back to their land. In 1948, and against all odds, God made her a nation. Now it's 2023, and there are close to 6.8 million Jews living in Israel. That the Jews are again in their land is the main reason we know we are living in the end-times. So it won't be long before God fulfills His promises to His chosen people (Gen. 12:1-3, Ezek. 37:21-23, Matt. 24:15-27, Rom. 11:25-26). *"'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.' 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 I will bring about; what I have planned, that I will do."* Isaiah 46:10-11, Psalm 33:10-12

Second, there's the church. Jesus Christ greatly loves His church, and He will build His church (Matt. 16:18). The church will preach the gospel to the entire world (Matt. 24:14), and make disciples in all the nations (Matt. 28:19-20). Yes, she has her ups and downs, but God, through Christ and the Holy Spirit, is sovereignly and powerfully carrying out His purposes for her. At the end of this age, His plans for her will be fulfilled, and God will send Christ to earth to rescue the church, judge the world, and begin His kingdom. Matt. 24:29-31, Acts 3:20-21, Revelation 20

Third, there's you, God's beloved child, and you are extremely and eternally important to Him. God was sovereign over your salvation (Eph. 1:4-5). God is sovereign over your spiritual growth (Phil. 2:13), over the work you do (Eph. 2:10), over how long you live (Ps. 139:16), over your

whole life (Rom. 8:28), and over your successful arrival in heaven. 2 Tim. 4:18, Jude 24-25

Romans 8:28-29, very encouraging Bible verses, tell us that God will fulfill His purpose for us. *"God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."* When it says, *"all things"*, it means everything in your life from the time you were born to the moment you die or are raptured. It means your upbringing, family, salvation, church, job, trials, sin, health, friends, enemies, weaknesses, abilities, ministry, etc.

That God is sovereign means He's lovingly, wisely, powerfully, and perfectly causing *"all things"* in your life to work out for your good. This good, one of His primary purposes for you, is stated in vs. 29 – *"Those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son"* (Rom. 8:29). You will be conformed, you will become like Christ (1 Jn. 3:2), you will be glorified (Rom. 8:30). *"We eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory."* Philippians 3:20-21

Fourth, there's everything else. In addition to what was said in par. 2, God is also sovereign over the angels, the devil, demons, stars, planets, rulers, countries, wars, earthquakes, famines, plagues, weather, atoms, cells, fish, birds, ants, animals, plant life, crime, religions, all nations, all rulers, every person on the planet, the economy, your family, your friends, sports, music, movies, technology, the Antichrist, etc., etc. It's true and truly amazing that God is sovereign over all things, and if He was not sovereign, if He was not in control, then He would not be God.

What is now taking place in this world may be confusing to you, and seem like a huge puzzle, but not to God. He knows exactly what He is doing, and He doesn't make any mistakes. Since the creation of the

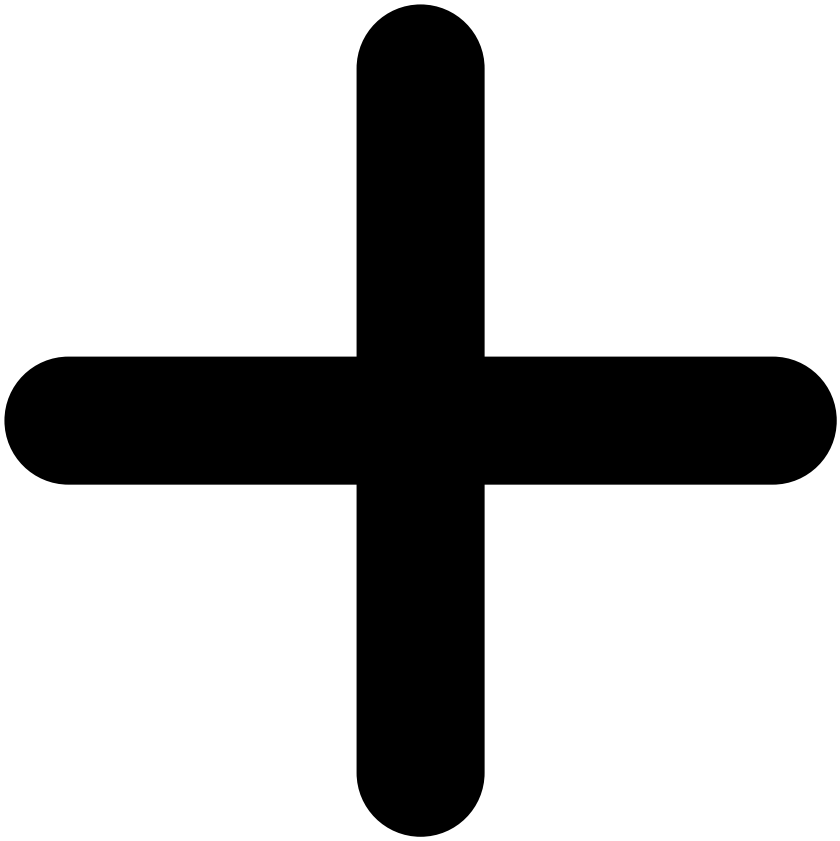
world, He's been perfectly putting every single piece in the right place at the right time, and that's trillions of pieces. God has been orchestrating and directing every bit of history and now we are living in the end-times. This means that this God-designed, global puzzle is close to being completed. Soon enough, Christ's church-age work will be finished, and He will return to rapture the church, and the Day of the Lord will begin. After that Christ will come back to Jerusalem as the King and begin His reign on earth. Zech. 14:9, Revelation 11:15

Eph. 1:10-11 sums up God's end-time plans for this world. It tells us that His work with all things (*"who works all things after the counsel of His will"*), is leading to the end of this age (*"fullness of the times"*), and then Christ will be reigning over the universe ("*summing up of all things in Christ")*, and you will be part of God's glorious plans ("*having been predestined according to His purpose"*). *"Hallelujah! The Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns."* Rev. 19:6b, Rev. 6-20

So how does God want you to live, and what does He want you to do?
* Keep looking to the Lord, loving Him, trusting Him, and obeying Him. Psalms 33:18-22, 105:4
* Know that God's sovereignty over your life does not negate your personal responsibility, your duty to obey all His commands. *"Work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."* Phil. 2:12-13, Ps. 119:44
* Believing that God is sovereign results in God being exalted and you being humbled, and being filled up with real joy, peace, and hope.
* Be a light to the people around you. Be praying and looking for opportunities to share the gospel, for it's the only answer to the problems in a person's soul. Matt. 5:14-16, Col. 4:2-6
* Study end-times' prophecy, be a watchman, and prepare the way of the Lord. Tell others what you learn in God's word and what you see happening in the world that relates to the end-times. 1 Chron. 12:32, Ezek. 3:17, Matt. 24:45-46
* Be thankful that God wants you to live at this time in history. Be excited about the future, and remember that it won't be long before

Christ takes you home to heaven. Heb. 12:22-24 – *“You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God… to myriads of angels… to the general assembly and church… to God… and to Jesus…”*

You must know that God is sovereign over the world and your life if you are to live rightly for Him. I encourage you to read these two other posts that speak on this neglected but most important subject: *“God is in Charge of Everything”*, and *“God is in Charge of Your Life.”*



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