How did God use His sovereignty in the beginning?

**Experience godliness (god-likeness)**

**Monday**

Read Genesis 1

* *Look for God’s sovereignty as you study this scripture. Does God predetermine everything that you do?* ***Write down*** *your thoughts and what you find in this chapter.*

**Tuesday**

Read Job 38-42

* *When God speaks, things happen. That’s because He is sovereign. Nothing has changed in this regard since the beginning of time.* ***Meditate*** *on this truth.*

**Wednesday**

Read Psalms 25

* *Everything about God is good. Everything He is does is altogether good!* ***Journalize*** *all the good things about your God that you see in these scriptures.*

**Thursday**

Read Genesis 1:26-30, Psalms 82:6, Psalms 8:4-9, 2 Peter 1:4, Romans 8:18

* *God made you in His image which means, to an extent you have god-like qualities. The Bible makes it very clear that only He is to be worshiped as Almighty God, but God has delegated a bit of His sovereignty so that you can participate in His divine nature. God’s glory is deposited in your soul. This is godliness.* ***Journalize*** *what your reaction to this truth is.*

**Friday**

Read Hebrews 2:6-9, 1 Timothy 3:16

* *The mystery of godliness is great! How is God dealing with you about your godliness (god-likeness)?*

How did God use His sovereignty in the beginning?

There are some Christians who say: God’s sovereignty is irresistible.

The ultimate conclusion of this belief is that whatever you see or experience in life is God’s will and choice.

* He chooses many to go to hell because many are going to hell.
* He decides that many should be sick and suffering because many are sick and suffering.
* He wants many to be impoverished because there are millions who don’t have enough to eat every day of the week.

Mantras of those who believe this way:

“Its all going to work out.”

“Whatever is going to happen, is going to happen.”

This is called **Predeterminism** - everything has been predetermined for us by God and we have not control over our future or destiny.

A non-christian religious term for this is **Fatalism** - all events and actions are subject to destiny.

Examples:

Many Muslims believe in fatalism

Hindus tend toward fatalism although free will is taught

A better term for this belief is **Defeatism** and **Hopelessness**

There are many problems with the teaching, no matter whether you are Christian, religious, agnostic or atheist:

* It denies the reality and power of evil
* It distances humanity from God so there is no personal relationship
* Sympathy and empathy get thrown out the window
* Love and goodness have no place in our hearts
* Defeated mentality
* Hopelessness
* You quit trying
* Wild living

What is the truth about God’s sovereignty?

A significant key to understanding how God decided to apply His sovereign from the beginning

How did God use His sovereignty in the beginning?

Bible study tip: The Bible says what it means and means what it says.

Some questions we need to ask ourselves to gain deeper understanding:

To what level did God intend to exert His sovereignty on earth?

Did God ever intend to allow human beings to participate or even share in His sovereignty?

If God is sovereign, why are things so out of control around us and out of alignment with His will?

If things that happen outside His will, does it mean that God not sovereign?

Understanding these questions will help us understand how God wants to exert His sovereignty today and what part we play in establishing His sovereignty.

Genesis 1

**1**In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **2**Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

**3**And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. **4**God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. **5**God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

Sovereignty -

spoken word resulted in action,

power and authority,

goodness

God gave names to His creation, he didn’t consult with anyone (no one was around to consult). God created because He wanted to create.

**6**And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” **7**So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. **8**God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

**9**And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. **10**God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

God’s spoken word embodies action and results. This is His sovereign nature.

**11**Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. **12**The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. **13**And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

God’s sovereignty is good…it is something we should desire with all our hearts.

**14**And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, **15**and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. **16**God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. **17**God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, **18**to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. **19**And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

**20**And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” **21**So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

**22**God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” **23**And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

Through His sovereign blessing, He set everything on a path of fruitfulness and increase. It was entirely God’s decision to do this. Nobody did anything good or bad to deserve or not deserve God’s blessing.

**24**And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. **25**God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

**26**Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

**27**

So God created mankind in his own image,

    in the image of God he created them;

    male and female he created them.

God decided to make man in His image which included having Him participate in His sovereignty on earth. The image of God always expresses His glory. In His sovereignty, He decided from the beginning that we were to participate (not take or assume) and exude His glory.

Psalm 82:6 New International Version (NIV)

**6**

“I said, ‘You are “gods”;

    you are all sons of the Most High.’

Psalm 8:4-9 New International Version (NIV)

**4**

what is mankind that you are mindful of them,

    human beings that you care for them?

**5**

You have made them a little lower than the angels

    and crowned them with glory and honor.

**6**

You made them rulers over the works of your hands;

    you put everything under their feet:

**7**

all flocks and herds,

    and the animals of the wild,

**8**

the birds in the sky,

    and the fish in the sea,

    all that swim the paths of the seas.

**9**

Lord, our Lord,

    how majestic is your name in all the earth!

2 Peter 1:4 New International Version (NIV)

**4**Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

His glory is to shine out from within us.

Romans 8:18

**18**I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Where does this god-likeness or godliness end? With worship. Only God is to be worshipped.

Romans 1:25 New International Version (NIV)

**25**They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

Hebrews 2:6-9 New International Version (NIV)

**6**But there is a place where someone has testified:

“What is mankind that you are mindful of them,

    a son of man that you care for him?

**7**

You made them a little[ lower than the angels;

    you crowned them with glory and honor

**8**

    and put everything under their feet.”

In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. **9**But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor

The mystery of godliness is great! - 1 Timothy 3:16

**28**God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

God sovereignly blessed them to be fruitful, increase, fill the earth, and subdue it (to win, be the head, at the top, be a perpetual success).

To rule? To subdue? The godliness God gave humanity came with a level of delegated sovereignty!

**29**Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.

God sovereignly gave man everything they needed to live.

2 Peter 1:3 New International Version (NIV)

**3**His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

**30**And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

**31**God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.