



**THE SHOCKING
SOVEREIGNTY
OF GOD**

Gentile Nations

Possible Responses to God's Sovereignty

- Resistance
- Confusion
- Worship

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- Resistance –I'm not going to believe that God is like that
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- Resistance –I'm not going to believe that God is like that OR that there even is a God.
- Confusion –Such and such seems inconsistent. That doesn't seem fair. Could He really have that as a standard?
- Worship

Possible Responses to God's Sovereignty

- Resistance –I'm not going to believe that God is like that OR that there even is a God.
- Confusion –That seems inconsistent, could He really have *that* as a standard?
- Worship –I am going to submit myself to One greater than I and trust Him even when I don't understand everything.

Realms of Sovereignty

- Hebrew People
- Gentile Nations
- New Testament Church

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Gentile Nations

God's Shocking Sovereignty:

1. An Object for Demonstration
2. A Tool for Implementation
3. A Witness for Clarification

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God's Shocking Sovereignty:

An Object for Demonstration

- *Egypt

- *Canaan

- *Nineveh

Egypt-A Demonstration of Power and a Promise Kept

God chose to use the plagues so there was no question that He was greater than Pharaoh or anything else ones choose to worship.

God chose to demonstrate His power when Pharaoh would not bend his will to God's Will so that God could keep His own promises.

Canaan—A Demonstration of God's Patience, Judgement, and Faithfulness to His Promises.

Canaanite culture was morally disgusting.
(Deut 9:5; Lev 18:24-25; Deut 18:9,12)

Their idolatrous system and culture had been evil for over 400 years (Gen 15:14-16) Think of time leading up to Sodom (Abram and Lot) through Isaac, Jacob, on into Moses and Joshua.

Nineveh–A Demonstration of Mercy

God sovereignly chose to be merciful to Nineveh:

- *Mercifully sent Jonah (rebellious and unwilling) to warn the city.

- *People and King repented and God mercifully chose not to destroy them. (verses in notes)

“Who knows, God may turn and relent and withdraw His burning anger so that we will not perish.”

Jonah 3: 9

“..You are a gracious and compassionate God,
slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness
and One who relents concerning calamity..”

Jonah 4:2

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God's Shocking Sovereignty:

A Tool for Implementation

- *Nebuchadnezzar

- *Cyrus

- *Pilate

Nebuchadnezzar-Tool of God's Judgement

God had warned of the destruction that would follow if the Hebrew people ignored God's plan and followed other nations' ways.

Cyrus-Tool of God's Restoration

God chooses Cyrus to return the Jewish people to Jerusalem.

God says, "It is I who says of Cyrus, '*He is my shepherd! And he will perform all My desire.*' And He declares of Jerusalem, '*She will be built,*' And of the temple, '*Your foundation will be laid.*'" Isaiah 44:28

Pilate-Tool of God's Redemption

While Jewish religious leaders did have some authority under Roman rule, they did not have authority to put anyone to death. (John 18: 28-32)

Pilate's authority came from God himself. Jesus said, "You would have no authority over Me unless it had been given to you from above..." John 19:11

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God's Shocking Sovereignty:

A Witness for God

*Samaritans

*Pilate

Samaritan Villagers-Witnesses for God

Samaritan woman at the well and Samaritans

“...many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman (from the well) who testified...” John 4:39

“...we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Saviour of the world.” John 4:42

Pilate-Witness for God

Testimony as to Jesus' innocence and thus being the spotless 'lamb' required to take away our sins.

“I find no guilt in Him.” John 18:38

“...no guilt” John 19:4,6

“Have nothing to do with that righteous Man...” Matt
27:19

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God's Shocking Sovereignty:

1. An Object for Demonstration
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So what do we do with this?

How do we handle this shocking sovereignty?
Family, Co-Workers, Neighbors.

We can't control if they will receive what we are learning about God like a stiff-necked Pharaoh or a contrite Ninevite.

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- Embrace the shocking things we are studying.
- Embrace the contradictions of what God says is righteous and what our culture says should be embraced.
- Flip the interpretation of the facts from an unfair to a merciful perspective.

“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgements and unfathomable His ways!

For who has known the mind of the Lord or who became His counselor?

Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to Him again?

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever, Amen.” -Romans 11:33-36