

Introduction

Outline:

1. God's Sovereignty in Creation
2. God's Sovereignty in History and Providence
3. God's Sovereignty in Salvation

Last time: God's Sovereignty in Creation

Started God's Sovereignty in History and Providence

This evening: Finish God's Sovereignty in History and Providence

God's Sovereignty in Salvation

John Calvin:

“If one falls among robbers, or ravenous beasts; if a sudden gust of wind at sea causes shipwreck; if one is struck down by the fall of a house or a tree; if another, when wandering through desert paths, meets with deliverance; or, after being tossed by the waves, arrives in port, and makes some wondrous hair—breadth escape from death — all these occurrences, prosperous as well as adverse, carnal sense will attribute to fortune. But those who have learned from the mouth of Christ that all the hairs of his head are numbered (Matthew 10:30), will look farther for the cause, and hold that all events whatsoever are governed by the secret counsel of God.”

Charles Spurgeon: “There is no attribute of God more comforting to His children than the doctrine of Divine Sovereignty. Under the most adverse circumstances, in the most severe troubles, they believe that Sovereignty hath ordained their afflictions, that Sovereignty overrules them, and that Sovereignty will sanctify them all.”

Understanding God's providence:

Providence is the word that theologians use to describe God's total control over all contingencies and circumstances. Every action and reaction in the universe is under his authority. Every detail of life and human affairs is perpetually subordinated to the providence of God. There isn't one rebel molecule, word, or event that is outside His sovereign control. (John MacArthur)

- God's absolute sovereignty over His world - Isaiah 44 & 45
 - Isaiah 44:28; 45:1
 - Isaiah 45:6-7
 - **calamity** - "misery, distress"
- The example of Job:
 - Job 1:20-21
 - Job 2:10
- God's sovereignty in selecting leadership:
 - Proverbs 21:1
 - King Saul

- Ecclesiastes 10:16-17
 - The right response to God's choice of leaders:

- Psalm 33:10-11
 - (Isaiah 55:8-9)

4. God's Sovereignty in Salvation

- Ephesians 1:3-5
 - God's knowledge of each and every individual: (Psalm 139:13-16).
- Ephesians 1:11
 - **Predestined** — God's definite decision

 - **Counsel** — God's decree

- The Results of the Fall:
 - Ephesians 2:1-7

- Jesus' reference to those who follow Him:
 - John 6:37-44

- God's absolute sovereignty in salvation: Our hope and perseverance
 - Romans 8:28-39