

The Sovereignty of God Jonah 4:1-

That God will do what he wants to do

That we do not have the right to question God

Quotes on sovereignty

“This is God’s universe, and God does things his way. You may have a better way, but you don’t have a universe.” — [Vernon McGee](#)

“A God less than sovereign could not bestow moral freedom upon His creatures. He would be afraid to do so.” — [A.W. Tozer](#)

In Jonah 4, God grows a plant at will and sends a worm to destroy it.

In the grander scheme of things, he saves nations which are not related to Israel

Consider the character of King Nebuchadnezzar and how God dealt with him

- He was a great king of the super power of the day – Babylon
- He was a rich king – he was capable of making a monument out of gold
- He had a lot of authority and was powerful – he warned the wise men that if you do not tell me what I dreamt and its meaning I will kill all of you.
- The Lord accessed him past his security details, touched his mind and he lived like an animal eating grass for seven years. At the end of this experience, he was a humbled man. Here what he says about the sovereignty of God:

34 At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures

from generation to generation; **35** all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?” Daniel 4:34-35

There are three truths I want us to share in on this theme of the sovereignty of God:

1.0 God is Lord over the nations

There is this idea that God watches over the nations

God see all the generations of the earth

God know what is going on in every nation.

Sometimes because of our relationship with God, we so personalize him or make Him our community God that we do not seem to be aware that God is reaching out to other nations as well.

For example see what he says here:

19 In that day there will be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the LORD at its border. 20 It will be a sign and a witness to the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt. When they cry to the LORD because of oppressors, he will send them a savior and defender, and deliver them.

21 And the LORD will make himself known to the Egyptians, and the Egyptians will know the LORD in that day and worship with sacrifice and offering, and they will make vows to the LORD and perform them. 22 And the LORD will strike Egypt, striking and healing, and they will return to the LORD, and he will listen to their pleas for mercy and heal them. 23 In that day there will be a

highway from Egypt to Assyria, and Assyria will come into Egypt, and Egypt into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians. 24 In that day Israel will be the third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, 25 whom the LORD of hosts has blessed, saying, “Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my inheritance.”

- We may not see it but God is Lord over His creation
- God cares about the nations of the world - Iran, Pakistan, France, even over cities
- His sovereignty extends across all borders and barriers
- His sovereignty should calm our fears - sometimes when we sit in talks on radical Islamic strategy we feel like we are finished. But God is Lord.

“We are not bringing Christ to poor communities. He has been active in these communities since the creation of the world, sustaining them, Hebrews 1:3 says, by His powerful Word. Hence, a significant part of working in poor communities involves discovering and appreciating what God has been doing there for a LONG time.” — [Steve Corbett](#),

2.0 Aware of His sovereignty we must be careful not to resist or constrain God because of our prejudices.

It seems as if Jonah in His mind had executed judgement upon the people of Nineveh

5 Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city. Jonah 4:6.

One wonders whether he was waiting for fire to fall down from heaven. Was he waiting for the ground to open up and swallow the city?

Each of us needs to look into our hearts and see what we think of other nations

- a. Who are those people who are not on your mission agenda

- b. Do you pray for the nations of the world? What do your prayers reveal about your attitudes on other nations
- c. There is the dilemma of how we view Israel in comparison with other nations. Many Christians do not know how to relate with Palestine Christians.

3.0 **Aware of His sovereignty we must learn to submit to His will**

- ✚ What does God want us to do?
- ✚ Where does God want us to work
- ✚ What does it mean to be an instrument in the Lord's hand?

1 Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed: 2 "I will go before you and level the exalted places,¹ I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, though you do not know me.

5 I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, 6 that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. Isaiah 45:1, 2, 5 & 6

Jesus said,

30 "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. John 5:30

This verse reveals total surrender, with Jesus knowing that He is fully in the hands of the Father.

Listen to what the Lord said to Ananias about Paul

15 But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” Acts 9:15-16

- God is saying that I have work to do among the Gentiles and Kings
- Paul is the instrument I want to use
- When I knocked him off his horse, it was so that I may change the course of his life and use him for my purposes.

In our testimonies, we often thank God that we have got Jesus. The question is, does He have you?

Our agendas often compete with His agenda.

“If there is one single reason why good people turn evil, it is because they fail to recognize God’s ownership over their kingdom, their vocation, their resources, their abilities, and above all their lives.” — [Erwin W. Lutzer](#),

Conclusion: Prayer

1. That God will make us willing instruments.
2. That God will give us a heart for lost nations of the world.
3. That God will open our hearts to what He is doing in the world, and help us participate in what He is doing.