

Knowledge of the Holy

A study on the attributes of God based upon the AW Tozer book of the same name.

The Sovereignty of God

“Our God is in heaven; He does whatever pleases him.”

Psalm 115:3

God’s sovereignty is the attribute by which He rules His entire creation, and to be sovereign God must be all-knowing, all-powerful, and absolutely free...Were there even on datum of knowledge, however small, unknown to god, His rule would break down at that point. To be Lord over all the creation, He must possess all knowledge. And were God lacking on infinitesimal modicum of power, that lack would end His reign and undo His kingdom; That one stray atom of power would belong to someone else, and God would be a limited ruler and hence not sovereign. Furthermore, His sovereignty requires that he be absolutely free which means simply that He must be free to do whatever He will to do anywhere at any time to carry out his eternal purpose in every single detail without interference. Were He less that free, He must be less than sovereign?” – AW Tozer

Do you agree with the statement?

There is nothing in the world that is absolutely free, even a bird is not really free at all.

If a bird is not truly free, in what ways is it not free?

Is anything in the created universe actually “free”?

What does Isaiah 46:9-11 say about God and His sovereignty?

For God to be completely free means that he must possess universal authority. Which he does. This however causes us to contend with two main issues, for which we do not have complete answers.

1. If God is sovereign what of the existence of those things of which he does not approve, for instance, pain, evil and death?

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“In His sovereign wisdom God has permitted evil to exist in carefully restricted areas of His creation, a kind of fugitive outlaw whose activities are temporary and limited in scope.” -Tozer

These things are the result of the sinful choice of our ancient parents (part of God’s sovereign decree. God is still working through it, and his plan cannot be stopped, however He is choosing to bring those things to an end in His own good time.

2. If God rules the universe by sovereign decree, how is it possible for man to exercise free choice? And if he cannot exercise free choice, how can he be responsible for his conduct?

This issue has sadly divided the church for centuries – unnecessarily.

The answer to this question is that God in his infinite wisdom is able to reconcile both in his mind.

The facts are-

1. Humans are sinful and they need a savior.
2. Jesus died as a sacrifice for our sins, was buried and rose again.
3. Those who believe in Jesus are saved from their sins.
4. Salvation is ultimately the work of God by grace through faith in Jesus alone.

Jesus said, “Make Disciples!” That is our role in God’s plan. Jesus will sort out the sheep and the goats himself and the end of the age. (Matthew 15:31-32)

We must all choose whether we will obey the gospel or turn away in unbelief and reject its authority. Our choice is our own, but the consequences of the choice have already been determined by the sovereign will of God, and from this there is no appeal. - Tozer

John 3:16-18
