

3/24/20 - Sovereign

"The decision is announced by messengers, the holy ones declare the verdict, so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of people." - Dan. 4:17

A good pastor friend of mine said the following today and it struck me as profound: "It's hard to not want what God wants to be what I want." Ok, stop. Go back and read that again until you understand it, because like most profound things, this one takes some reading to understand.

We live in a world that constantly works to place things other than God at the center of our lives. You can make a list a mile long of things that want to take God's place in your life. From physical objects like wealth and cars and houses to ideas like power and politics and fame, even Christians who weekly proclaim that God is their "all in all" fall for the lie that things are more important than Him.

Perhaps the most dangerous one is when we put ourselves in God's place. When we make decisions based on what's best for us rather than what's best for God, He has just taken second place in your life, and that's not something God is willing to do. Nor should He have to. God is sovereign, or He is not. He's not our co-pilot nor our servant nor our Great-Vending-Machine-In-The-Sky. God is God, and He is sovereign.

I took a look at the bible to see what it had to say specifically about sovereignty and I found a funny thing. In the entire bible, this word only shows up as a description, even a Name of God (specifically, "Sovereign Lord") except in one chapter of one book (Daniel 4). Look for yourself and you'll find that besides this chapter, EVERY mention of sovereignty is as a title for God, "Sovereign Lord". Why? Because for Christians there is no other context for sovereignty but God. Nothing else can take His place.

What does this mean for us?

God is the Shepherd; we are the sheep.

God is the pilot; we are the passengers.

God is the boss; we are the workers.

God is the master; we are the servants.

God is the president; we are the citizens.

God is the King; we are the subjects.

And thank God it is so. If we were truly in charge of anything, it would fall apart. Just look at our COVID-19 world, brought to a standstill by a microscopic virus. Can we heal disease? Can we mend broken bones? Can we save this planet? Can we guide ourselves to eternal life? Because God can, and God can, and God can, and God can.

God is sovereign in this world. He is Sovereign God. Nothing takes His place and everything is of Him. It is not ours to question, or debate, or add our two cents worth. It is ours to obey, to trust, and to worship our Sovereign God.

Questions to ponder:

Is God sovereign in your life? (if you haven't looked it up by now, please do.)
How might we face fear, doubt, and difficulties differently if God is sovereign?