

The Omnipotence and Sovereignty of God

Omnipotence - (Omni = "All" + Potens = "Powerful")

What it means – "God can do all His Holy will."

Biblical Testimony

- **The Names of God**

- God Almighty (Gen. 17:1); The Lord Strong and Mighty (Ps. 24:8); Mighty God (Is. 9:6); He Who is Mighty (Lk. 1:49)

- **The Works of God**

- Job. 42:2; Jer. 32:17, 27; Matt. 19:26

Question: Is there anything God cannot do? (Num. 23:19, Mal. 3:6)

"God's "Inability" is due to perfection, not imperfection."¹

The Sovereignty of God

Definitions:

"The Sovereignty of God refers to His unhindered and absolute control over all that He has made." (Brad Klaasen)

"His absolute independence to do as He pleases and His absolute control over the actions of all His creatures. No creature, person, or empire can either thwart His will or act outside the bounds of His will." (Jerry Bridges)²

Biblical Testimony

Ps. 115:3, Ps. 135:5-6, Is. 46:9-11; Dan. 4:35, Rom. 9: 20-21; Eph. 1:11; Rev. 4:11

¹ Peter Sammons, *The Forgotten Attributes of God*, 148.

² Jerry Bridges, *Trusting God*, 24.

A Sampling of the Extent of God's Sovereignty

- God is Sovereign over Nature (Psalm 104:10-18, Mk. 4:39-41)
- God is Sovereign over Life and Death (1 Sam. 2:6-7)
- God is Sovereign over Nations (Dan. 2:20-21)
- God is Sovereign over Animals (2 Kings 17:25)
- God is Sovereign over Satan (Job 1:12)
- God is Sovereign over Normal Daily Life (Prov. 19:21; 20:24)
- God is Sovereign over "seemingly random" events (Prov. 16:33)
- God is Sovereign over Man's Choices (Prov. 21:1)
- God is Sovereign over Suffering (Gen. 50:20)
- God is Sovereign over the Death of Christ (Acts 2:23, Is. 53:10)

The Sovereignty of God, the Decrees of God and the Providence of God³

- **Sovereign (God Reigns)**
- **God's Decrees (His Plans)**
 - o His decrees refer to His Sovereign plan.
 - o "the decrees of God are, His eternal purpose, according to the counsel of His Will, whereby, for His own glory, he hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass" (WSC, 7)
 - o "The reason why any event occurs, or, that it passes from the possible into that of the actual, is that God has so decreed." (Charles Hodge)

Question: If God intended something to happen, if a purpose of God did not come to be, what would that imply?

- **Providence (Execution of God's Sovereign Plans)**
 - o Psalm 104
 - o Q. What do you understand by the providence of God?

A. The almighty and ever present power of God by which God upholds, as with his hand, heaven and earth and all creatures, and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty-all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but by His Fatherly hand. (Question 27, Heidelberg Catechism)

³ This section is adapted from Ch. 1 of; Timothy Witmer, *God is God and I'm Not*.