

- I. Session 26: The Sovereignty of God Part 2: The universal scope of His control part 1
- a. Review: Last time we saw an introduction to God's sovereignty in which we considered some definitions of God's sovereignty, whether it is an attribute of God, discuss the theological method we shall pursue in proving the sovereignty of God and look biblically at the efficacy of God's Control.
  - b. Purpose: Building from last week's point of the efficacy of God's control we now see the universal scope of His control specifically His control over inanimate creation, animal creatures and human history.
  - c. What do we mean: "God exercises such control over everything that happens in the world."<sup>1</sup>
  - d. Biblical Teaching
    - i. God's control over His inanimate creation
      1. We see this early on during God's creation of the world: "God said, 'Let there be light,' and we read, 'There was light.' 'Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear,' and 'it was so.'"<sup>2</sup>  
Note how in the creation account in **Genesis 1**, God says something and it will happen!
      2. **Psalm 135:6-7**
        - a. Note in beginning of **verse 6**: "*Whatever the Lord pleases, He does,*"
        - b. Where was this the case? "*In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps*" (**Psalm 135:6b**) □ In essence, everywhere!
        - c. Three examples of this control with:
          - i. "*vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth*" (**Psalm 135:7a**)
          - ii. "*Who makes lightnings for the rain*" (**Psalm 135:7b**)
          - iii. "*Who brings forth the wind from His treasures.*" (**Psalm 135:7c**)
      3. "*The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the Lord.*" (**Proverbs 16:33**)
        - a. We often think casting of lots is driven by "chance."
        - b. Here we see God's control in that it's "decision" is "*from the Lord.*"
    - ii. God's control over animals
      1. "*Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the [a]sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name*" (**Genesis 2:19**) □ God is able to bring animals to man in order for man to name them.

<sup>1</sup> John Frame, *Doctrine of God* (Phillipsburg, NJ:Presbyterian and Reformed, 2002), 47.

<sup>2</sup> Arthur Pink, *The Sovereignty of God* (Pensacola, FL: Chapel Library, 2013), Location 479 of 3884.

2. Sparrow cannot fall apart from His will: *“Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.”* (Matthew 10:29)
  3. We can think of examples such as God bringing animals into Noah’s ark, the plagues of Egypt with the frogs, flies and locusts; the lions with Daniel, etc.
- iii. God’s control over human history
1. *“and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation,”* (Acts 17:26)
    - a. Notice that God is control with the nations in that He has *“determined their appointed times”*
    - b. Notice that God is control with the nations’ *“boundaries of their habitation.”*
  2. *“The horse is prepared for the day of battle, But victory belongs to the Lord.”* (Proverbs 21:31)
    - a. Who wins and loses wars shapes history.
    - b. Notice man’s attempt: *“horse is prepared for the day of battle”*
    - c. Yet the result is controlled by God: *“But victory belongs to the Lord.”*
  3. *“10 The Lord nullifies the counsel of the nations; He frustrates the plans of the peoples. 11 The counsel of the Lord stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation.”* (Psalm 33:10-11)
    - a. Can man’s plan stop God’s plan? Verse 10 says no in two lines!
    - b. God’s plan is forever as taught in verse 11.
- e. Implications
- i. Our plans must be made with consideration of His will (James 4:13-15)
  - ii. Recall again Jesus’ teaching about God’s control of the sparrow; the reason why He taught that was to not fear man but God instead who controls all things (Matthew 10:28); **do you have loving reverence for God?**
  - iii. We can rejoice in God for His sovereignty over history for the very Psalm that teaches us His control over History also talks about rejoicing in God in Psalm 33:1.