

The Revelation of the One True God

The Revelation of the Sovereign God

Lesson 5

Selected Scripture Texts

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
July 5, 2015*

“ We start the study of theology with two presuppositions, namely (1) that God exists, and (2) that He has revealed Himself in His divine Word. ”

BERKHOF, L. (1938). SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY (P. 19)

Theology Proper

- ▶ Two essential foundational truths
 - God is Spirit and unknowable (1 Timothy 6:13-16)
 - Man is spiritually dead (Genesis 2:16-17; 1 Corinthians 2:14)
- ▶ God has spoken
 - God revealed His eternal power and divine nature in creation (Romans 1:18-20)
 - God has revealed Himself through holy men in the Bible (Hebrews 1:1; 2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
 - Man cannot understand apart from illumination (2 Cor. 4:3,4,6)

God is the Creator

- ▶ Solely by Divine counsel and Divine wisdom
 - How did God create?
 - What did God create?
 - When did God create?
 - What about evolution?
 - Why did God create?

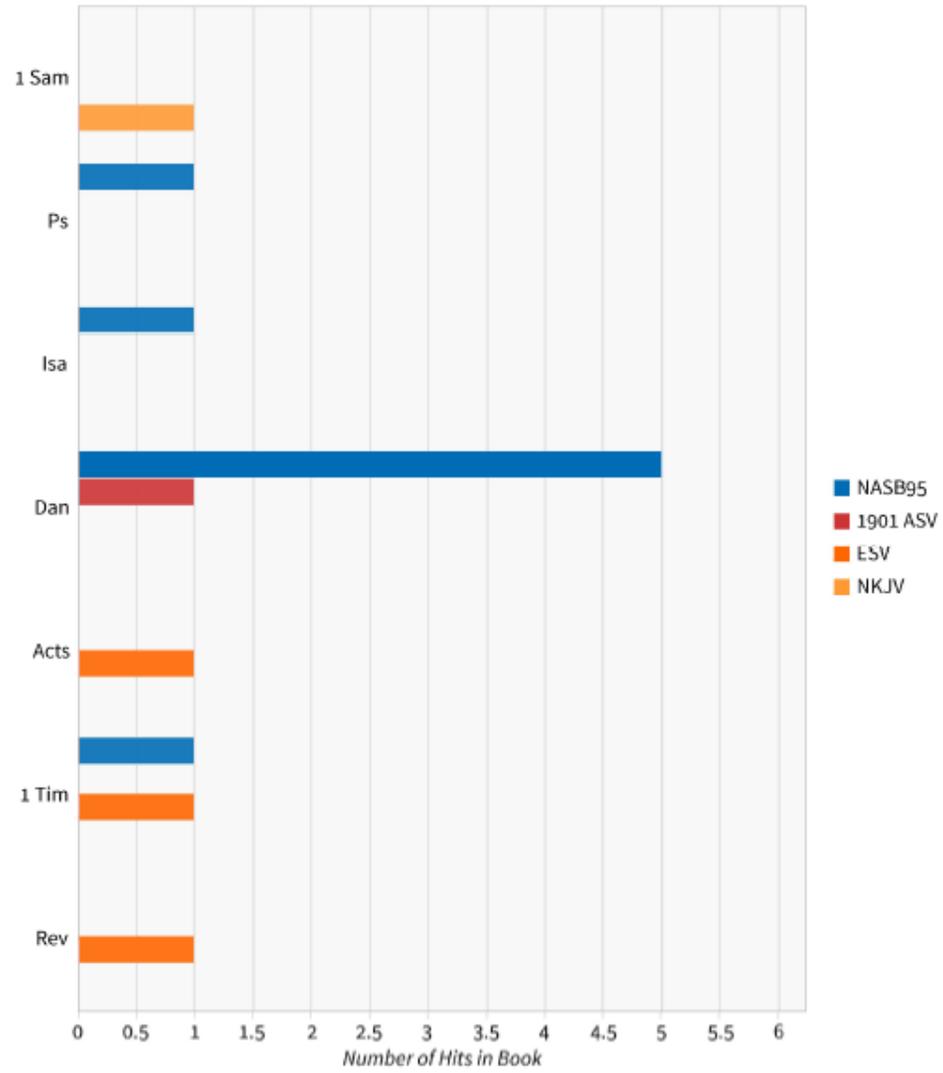
The Revelation of the Sovereign God

- ▶ What is sovereignty?
- ▶ The Bible teaches the sovereignty of God
- ▶ Objections to the sovereignty of God

What is Sovereignty?

- ▶ No word for sovereign or sovereignty in the Bible
- ▶ Sovereignty – *malkût* (Hebrew)
- ▶ Sovereign – *dunastes* (Greek)

sovereign OR sovereignty in NASB95, 1901 ASV, ESV & NKJV



What is Sovereignty?

- ▶ “Sovereign” not used in English until the 13th or 14th century
- ▶ Dictionary
 - Sovereign (n) – supreme ruler
 - Sovereignty (n) – supreme power or authority
 - Sovereign (adj) – possessing supreme or ultimate power
- ▶ Not subject to the rule or control of another
 - Free – complete absence of external rule and the full ability to make all of one's own decisions
 - Independent – standing alone
 - Sovereign – absence of a superior power and implies supremacy within a thing's own domain or sphere
 - Autonomous – independence in matters pertaining to self-government

What is the Sovereignty of God?

- ▶ It is presented as the will, purpose, plan or decree of God
 - Deuteronomy 29:29 – Secret or revealed
- ▶ It is developed from all of His fullness – His attributes
 - His holiness, truth, wisdom, goodness, wrath
 - His eternity
 - His omniscience and perfection
 - God's immutability (Malachi 3:6)
- ▶ It is executed by His omnipotence
- ▶ It is displayed in three areas:
 - Creation
 - Providence
 - Salvation

The Biblical Case for Sovereignty

- ▶ 1 Samuel 15:29 – Will not lie or change His mind
- ▶ Job 23:13-14 – He does what His soul desires
- ▶ Psalm 22:28 – He rules over the nations
- ▶ Psalm 33:11 – the counsel of the LORD stands forever
- ▶ Psalm 102:27 – You are same and Your years will not end
- ▶ Psalm 115:3 – He does whatever He pleases
- ▶ Psalm 119:160 – His righteous ordinances are forever
- ▶ Psalm 147:15-18 – He sends forth commands to the earth
- ▶ Isaiah 14:26-27 – the LORD of Hosts has planned

The Biblical Case for Sovereignty

- ▶ Isaiah 31:2 – does not retract His words
- ▶ Isaiah 44:28-45:7 – raise up Cyrus to perform all My desire
- ▶ Isaiah 46:9-11 – My purpose will be established
- ▶ Isaiah 48:14 – He will carry out His good pleasure on Babylon
- ▶ Romans 11:29 – irrevocable gifts and calling of God
- ▶ 1 Timothy 6:15 – Only Sovereign, King of kings and Lord of lords
- ▶ Hebrews 6:13-18 – unchangeable oath; He cannot lie
- ▶ Hebrews 13:8 – Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, forever
- ▶ James 1:17-18 – no variation or shifting shadow

The Biblical Case for Sovereignty

- ▶ Genesis 45:1-11 – Joseph’s story
- ▶ Exodus 3:1-12; 6:28-7:6 – the Exodus
- ▶ Joshua 10:1-15; Joshua 11:18-20 – the conquest of Canaan
- ▶ Daniel 4:1-37 – Nebuchadnezzar’s humiliation and testimony
- ▶ Psalm 104:1-35 – His providential rule over creation
- ▶ 1 Chronicles 29:10-16 – His providential rule over men
- ▶ Romans 8:28 – His providential rule for blessing His people

The Biblical Case for Sovereignty

- ▶ The control of random events – Proverbs 16:33
- ▶ The control of our eternal destiny
 - Colossians 1:19-20
 - John 10:28-30
 - Romans 8:38-39
 - 2 Timothy 4:18
 - Titus 1:2
 - 2 Timothy 1:9; Ephesians 1:4, 5, 9, 11 – Eternal plan
 - Hebrews 13:20 – Everlasting Covenant

Objections to the Sovereignty of God

- ▶ None from Scripture
- ▶ The problem of sin: He is not sovereign or He is not good
 - Job – “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?”
 - Habakkuk – “The just shall live by faith.”
 - Death of Jesus Christ – Acts 2:23; 4:27-28
- ▶ The “free will” of man
 - A false doctrine – 1 Corinthians 2:14; Romans 8:6-8
 - The will of man is determined by his attributes
 - A “free will” requires Divine intervention – change in attributes
 - John 3:3, 5 – must be born again to see or enter the Kingdom of God
 - Philippians 2:12-13 – works in us to will and to do His good pleasure
 - Hebrews 12:1-2 – Author of our faith

The Revelation of the Sovereign God

▶ The sovereignty of God

- God's ability to act independent of outside influence
- God's display of all His attributes in sovereignty over creation and salvation
- God's exercise of omnipotence in fulfilling His plan, purpose, will and decree

▶ The duty of man

- No basis for a challenge to God (Romans 9:20, 33)
- Be thankful as He reveals Himself in His Word and Providence
- Trust in Him as He reveals Himself in His Word and Providence

▶ The glory of Christ – Romans 9:23; 11:33-36