

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – February 21, 2020

Theme: The Attributes of God

Topic: The Attributes of God - Sovereign

Main Texts: Psalm 135:1-21, 1 Chronicles 29:11-13

Key verse: Psalm 135:5-6 – *“For I know that the Lord is great, and our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the Lord pleases He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deep places.”* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: The dictionary defines “sovereign” as “self-governing, independent, possessing supreme or ultimate power or authority; preeminent; indisputable”. This power is so absolute that it cannot be checked by anyone else. So, we hear of sovereign nations – nations that are self-governing and independent, not subject to any other – taking decisions, choosing direction, and making rules as they please. Monarchs are also known to exercise sovereign powers within their domain. Their powers are so absolute that anything they say stands - and anyone who dares to challenge them does so to their own peril (see Daniel 6:8; Mark 6:21-29).

1. **(a) What elements of God’s sovereignty do we see in Job 42:2; Psalm 135:4; Ephesians 1:11? (b) Read Psalm 22:28; 72:11; 135:13-18. How does the sovereignty of nations and monarchs compare with God as sovereign?**

Unlike earthly sovereigns - kings and nations which are limited both in time and space, God is eternally sovereign. His authority and independence are without limit in heaven and on earth. This is how the Psalmist put it: *I, too, give witness to the greatness of God, our Lord, high above all other gods. He does just as he pleases— however, wherever, whenever. He makes the weather— clouds and thunder, lightning and rain, wind pouring out of the north. He struck down the Egyptian firstborn, both human and animal firstborn... confronted Pharaoh and his servants with miracles. Yes, he struck down great nations, he slew mighty kings— Sihon king of the Amorites, also Og of Bashan— every last one of the Canaanite kings! Then he turned their land over to Israel, a gift of good land to his people.* (Psalm 135:5-12 MSG). King David proclaimed similarly in 1 Chronicles 29:11-13 *“Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all... You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; in Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.”* (NKJV)

2. **(a) Sovereigns make laws as well as judge and acquit as they please (Isaiah 33:22). How do you see these aspects of God’s sovereignty in the world? See Psalm 135:4; John 3:16-18 (b) How does God’s dealings with world powers like Pharaoh, and the likes of Sihon and Og, etc. teach us about His sovereign nature and how we view current happenings in Nigeria and in the world at large?**

Another aspect of being Sovereign is that the laws HE has laid down, His judgments and saving graces are all unquestionable. That is why, though God does not directly cause everything to happen, yet He allows all that happens to happen, and happen within His greater will. This has implications not just at the global level, but also at the individual levels. One of the first things we see about God’s sovereignty is that “He chose Jacob for Himself” (Psalm 135:4 NKJ). So, as the only Judge, HE can say *“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus ... And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”* (Romans 8:1, 28). No wonder the Psalmist calls us to *“Praise the name of God ... Shout “Hallelujah!” because God’s so good,”* (Psalm 135:1-3 NKJV)

3. **Read Psalm 65:4 and Roman’s 9:14-16. (a) How do they help you appreciate the implications of God’s sovereignty? (b) In what ways do they apply to you personally regarding any difficult questions you may be facing in life? (c) How does this study on God’s sovereignty help you answer a young believer who wonders why bad things happen to God’s children? See also Lamentations 3:37-39; Isaiah 45:7-9; Matthew 10:29-31**

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, I acknowledge your sovereignty over my life and the entire universe. Help me to entrust everything to you – knowing that you order the course of this world and the happenings around me according to your pleasure, in Jesus’ name. Amen.*