How did God use His sovereignty in the beginning?

**Experience God’s sovereign predetermined purpose for your life**

**Monday**

Read Genesis 2; Romans 11:29

* *God has predetermined your life’s purpose and giftings but not your choices or outcomes.* ***Journalize*** *what you think your unique God-given purpose is. Whatever it is, it will never change.*

**Tuesday**

Read Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Galatians 6:7; Genesis 23:16-17

* *God has given us the sovereign choice to pick our destiny, to choose life or death. Our choice not only affects us but affects those around us.* ***Pray*** *and ask God to enlighten you about the choices you are actively making right now.*

**Wednesday**

Read Genesis 2:19-20, 2 Chronicles 1, 1 Kings 4:29-34

* *The sovereign God has given you the capacity for unique creative freedom. The stronger your faith connection is with God, the more creative you will be.* ***Journalize*** *what you dream of creating jointly with God.*

**Thursday**

Read Genesis 2:18-24, Ruth 1, 2, 3, 4

* *God is sovereign over your relationships and partnerships.* ***Meditate*** *on this throughout the day.*

**Friday**

Read Genesis 2:25, Psalms 25

* *When you live within God’s sovereignty, you have no more fear of shame.* ***Journalize*** *all your fears and see how most of them are traced in some form to a fear of shame.*

How did God use His sovereignty in the beginning?

Last week:

God has delegated a certain level of sovereign decision making to us, without giving up any of His own sovereignty

Predeterminism/Fatalism —> ‘defeatism’ and hopelessness

God does not predetermine our outcomes but there are a lot of things He has sovereignly predetermined

We started looking at God’s intentions from the beginning to help us better understand how He applies His sovereignty in our world right now

Genesis 2:8 Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. 9 The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

God predetermined Adam’s purpose and calling…to work the garden and take care of it.

Jeremiah 1:4 The word of the Lord came to me, saying,

5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,

    before you were born I set you apart;

    I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

Acts 9:4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

5 “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked.

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. 6 “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

Acts 26:15 “Then I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’

“ ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ the Lord replied. 16 ‘Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me. 17 I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them 18 to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

When God predetermines something, He won’t change it, no matter what you do

Romans 11:29 New International Version (NIV)

29 for God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable.

God is not going to change your live’s purpose, no matter what you do or don’t do.

God has sovereignly foreordained your purpose. Your greatest delight in life is to discover His purpose and fulfill it.

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

God gave man the freedom of choice but also expressed what would be a good choice, a bad choice and the consequences of a bad choice.

God allowed man to sovereignly choose life or death. That has never changed.

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 New International Version (NIV)

15 See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. 16 For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

17 But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, 18 I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

19 This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live 20 and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

God did not predetermine your outcome. He sets before us life and death and says, ‘you choose.’

God has delegated an aspect of sovereignty, without giving up any of His own sovereignty in that, just as Adam and Eve had the choice of life and death, we do as well.

The consequence of that choice would impact all future generations of man kind. This was God’s sovereign plan.

Your sovereignty impacts those around you.

As God placed the two trees in the middle of the garden, He places choice in the very middle of our heart. High visibility, high importance, high stakes.

Without a doubt our choices affect other people’s lives. Why does God allow abuse, harm, loss and tragedy? He has delegated the sovereignty of choice to mankind.

It is not God’s fault the state of the world is what it is, the fault is our own.

Galatians 6:7 New International Version (NIV)

7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

Our choices have ruined the world we live in, but our cooperation with God sovereignty can turn things around, fix things and make them better than they have ever been!

19 Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

God’s sovereignty gave Adam creative license. God was Adam’s muse as Adam named all the animals. God has given you artistic creativity in every form. By the way, everyone of us is an artist in some form or fashion.

Painting

Music

Decorating

Carpentry

Accounting

Organizational structuring

Deal structures (finance and lawyers)

Writing

Counseling

Building processes

Convincing and persuading people

Public speaking and presentations

Engineers

You are an artist and God has sovereignly given you the capacity for creative freedom…so go create! Make something new, make something better, make something fresh. The stronger your faith in Him, the more creative you will be.

This highschooler just won $25,000 for innovating by identifying a way to eliminate every blindspot in a car with a web cam and a projector. You don’t think God is impressed??? God is loves it when in His presence you have a brilliant, creative idea and you go make it happen.

Go make the world a better place and create something with God’s blessing in your life! This is God’s sovereign will for your life!

Three parts to being creatively successful:

1. Know that what you create is God’s work assigned to you. You don’t make your own assignments
2. You create for God, not yourself or someone else (audience of one)
3. You create in God’s strength

18 The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

20….But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

23 The man said,

“This is now bone of my bones

    and flesh of my flesh;

she shall be called ‘woman,’

    for she was taken out of man.”

24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

“It is not good for man to be alone…period.” God’s sovereign decision to give the man companionship, in this case a mate.

A couple of observations:

1. He gave him a full-grown female spouse, not another male, not a child, not an animal.

2. God did not give Adam several options. God uniquely, sovereignly created someone custom fit for Adam and Adam had to be the happiest person in the whole, wide world.

3. Adam was not given multiple partners to sleep around with. He was given one partner, for life, to whom he was to be faithful to.

Just like God’s sovereign purpose and gifting for our life, God chooses the best and highest and most wonderful partner for us.

WAIT until you find the right person and you will have a wonderful life.

From Adam’s perspective, there are areas where God’s sovereignty was really narrow and others where it was seemingly broader.

God chose Adam’s purpose and gifted him accordingly. God chose Adam’s wife. But God let Adam choose life or death, the destiny of all the creation that followed, freedom to be creative.

25 Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Living within God’s sovereignty, Adam and Eve felt now shame. Interestingly, this is one of our greatest fears…is it really loss or is it truly a fear of shame?