God 101

The Sovereign God

Isaiah 45:5-10

I. God's Sovereign Declaration (vv. 5-7)

A. Specific – God is sovereign over the happenings of individuals
B. General – God is sovereign over the happenings of the world

II. God's Sovereign Plan (v. 8)

A. Righteousness to rain down
B. Salvation to spring up

III. God's Sovereign Warning (vv. 9-10)

A. Clay questioning the potter
B. Children questioning the parents

More to Consider

Again, it may be seen from this promise that God, to some extent, has seen fit to condition His action upon the believer's prayer; for the Scripture says; "If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it"; and this is the secret of all true evangelism...It is, then, the teaching of Scripture that the action of the mighty power of God in convicting and illuminating the unsaved is also, in a large measure, dependent upon the priestly intercession of the believer.

L.S. Chafer, True Evangelism, p. 90-1.

Sin is cosmic treason. Sin is treason against a perfectly pure Sovereign. It is an act of supreme ingratitude toward the One to whom we owe everything, to the One who has given us life itself. Have you ever considered the deeper implications of the slightest sin, of the most minute peccadillo? What are we saying to our Creator when we disobey Him at the slightest point? We are saying no to the righteousness of God. We are saying, "God, Your law is not good. My judgement is better than Yours. Your authority does not apply to me. I am above and beyond Your jurisdiction. I have the right to do what I want to do, not what You command me to do.

R.C. Sproul, The Holiness of God

God's sovereignty is supposed to be a comfort to us, not an issue to be concerned about or debate over. We are to live our lives making wise decisions in accordance with God's Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17; James 1:5). There will be no excuses before God for why we chose to disobey Him. We will have no one to blame but ourselves for our sin. Last but not least, we are to worship the Lord, praising Him that He is so wonderful, infinite, powerful, full of grace and mercy—and sovereign.

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That which should distinguish the suffering of believers from unbelievers is the confidence that our suffering is under the control of an all-powerful and all-loving God. Our suffering has meaning and purpose in God's eternal plan, and He brings or allows to come into our lives only that which is for His glory and our good.

Jerry Bridges, Trusting God: Even When Life Hurts