

A study in the Word.....

Written by John Walsh

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

I am indebted to Arthur Pink for his insights into this most important topic. Pink was a prolific writer on Biblical topics in the early part of the 20th century. I will lean on his work in this study.

INTRODUCTION

"What do we mean by the sovereignty of God? I will let Mr. Pink give the definition:

"We mean the supremacy of God, the kingship of God, the god-hood of God. To say that God is Sovereign is to declare that God is God. To say that God is Sovereign is to declare that He is the Most High, doing according to His will in the army of Heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth, so that none can stay His hand or say unto Him what doest Thou? "

"At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His Kingdom endures from generation to generation; all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing; and He does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay His hand or say to Him, 'What doest thou?' (Dan 4:34-35) RSV

“It has seemed good to me to show the signs and wonders that the Most High God has wrought towards me.

How great are His signs, how mighty are His wonders!

His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and His dominion is from generation to generation”. (Dan 4:2-3)

Pink continues: “To say that God is Sovereign is to declare that He is the Almighty, the Possessor of all power in Heaven and earth, so that none can defeat His counsels, thwart His purpose, or resist His will.”

“Our God is in the heavens, he does whatever He pleases.” (Psalm 115:3)

To say that God is Sovereign is to declare that He is "**The Governor among the nations**":

“For dominion belongs to the Lord, and He rules over the nations.” (Psalm 22:28)

He sets up kingdoms, overthrows empires, and determines the course of dynasties as pleases Him best.

“and this will be made manifest at the proper time by the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has ever seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion.” (1Tim 6:15-16)

Pink concludes: “To say that God is Sovereign is to declare that He is the "Only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords". Such is the God of the Bible."

INSIDERS INFORMATION

In the preface to his book “The Sovereignty of God” Mr. Pink passes on some wonderful wisdom: “There are two practical matters which it is always well to remember in connection with the doctrine of the sovereignty of God. Firstly, while this is a truth which every minister of the gospel is called to proclaim, it is not a subject which should be made a matter of argument amongst Christians. The one who truly believes that grace and light and spiritual understanding are **gifts of God** will not attempt to argue about such matters. Rather he will seek to adorn by a quiet and patient spirit and to

‘Put on then as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, and patience; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another if any man have a quarrel against any, even as Christ forgave you, so you also must forgive.’ (Col 3:12-13)

Secondly, we need to remember that the only attitude in which we can profitably consider this subject is the attitude of faith. We much approach such a theme conscious that

“the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God”. (1Cor 3:19)

Here we are on a ground where our thoughts are not God’s thoughts or His ways our ways.

Divine Sovereignty is not a truth which we can believe of ourselves; we cannot arrive at it by a

process of natural reasoning; we cannot receive it merely by the reading of a book; indeed a man may even read the Bible all his life and yet if left to his own understanding, never find this truth."

Moreover, we are by nature not only blind to this truth, but such is our fallen state that we are strongly averse to it. A doctrine so diametrically opposite to the mature pride of the human heart cannot but arouse objections. We find an examples of this illustrated in the reaction among the disciples of Yahshua to some of His teaching. Here is one recorded in John's gospel: **"It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh is of no avail; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you that do not believe."** For Jesus knew from the first who those were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. And he said, **"This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father. After this many of his disciples drew back and no longer went about with him."** (John 6:63-66)

We can conclude that it is only the Holy Spirit that can reveal the Sovereignty of God. This truth is glorious in the eyes of those whom the Spirit has "brought utterly to nought". Pink concludes: "It should **bring more calmness and peace onto our daily Christian walk**. And it should lead us to **look with confident assurance** for the coming of that day when heaven shall resound with the shout from a multitude which no man can number:

"Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.' And the twenty four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God saying,

'We give thanks to thee, Lord God Almighty, who art and who wast, that thou hast taken thy great power and begun to reign.

The nations raged but thy wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, for rewarding thy servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear thy name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth."

Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple; and there were flashes of lightning, voices, peals of thunder, an earthquake and heavy hail."

(Rev 11: 15-19)

The book of Revelation is a wonderful study of God's Sovereignty revealed in his power! But despite the shock and awe of the seven bowls of God's wrath found in Revelation chapter 16, under the deception of Satan and his end time beast power, men will foolishly challenge the kings Yahshua upon his return: **"and they will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for He is Lord of Lords and King of kings, and those with Him are called and chosen and faithful."** (Rev 17:14)

WHO IS IN CHARGE OF PLANET EARTH?

Thine O Lord is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is" in the heaven and in the earth is Thine; Thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and Thou art exalted as Head above all" (1Chron 29:11)

It used to be that the masses of mainstream Christianity, including even many theologians talked and wrote about the “battle” between God and Satan for human souls. A few years ago, I somehow wound up on the email list for an evangelical Christian group doing evangelism in India and Nepal. That is a noble idea to be sure! But I was somewhat amused by the fundraising solicitation emails I received from them, telling me of the urgency to get to the people of Asia before it was “**too late**” and these people never got to hear of the name of Jesus Christ – the only name by which they can be saved:

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:2)

Scenarios like this give the impression that the God of Christianity is dependent on human endeavor as He “does His best” to save souls but the billions who never hear or never heard the name “Jesus” will simply have been “lost” forever. Worse yet, some teach that those lost souls will “burn in hell” for eternity. You can go into any Christian book store and find books on the shelf that still promulgate this nonsense! But, on the brighter side, I will say that it appears that using hellfire as a fear tactic is not as common as it used to be among preachers. Today, unless they teach smooth and pleasant things, many preachers fear they will lose their audience and their incomes.

Arthur Pink writes eloquently, beginning in page 22 of his book:

“To declare that the Creator’s original plan has been frustrated by sin (and Satan), is to *dethrone* God. To suggest that God was taken by surprise in Eden and that He is now attempting to remedy an unforeseen calamity, is to *degrade* the Most High to the level of a finite, erring mortal. To argue that man is a free moral agent and the determiner of his own destiny, and that therefore he has the power to checkmate his Maker, is to *strip* God of the attribute of Omnipotence. To say that the creature has burst the bounds assigned by his Creator, and that God is now practically a helpless Spectator before the sin and suffering entailed by Adam’s fall, is to *repudiate* the express declaration of Holy Writ, namely, **“Surely the wrath of man shall praise Thee: the remainder of wrath shalt Thou restrain” (Psalm 76:10).**

In a word, to deny the sovereignty of God is to enter upon a path which, if followed to its logical terminus, is to arrive at blank atheism.

The sovereignty of the God of Scripture is absolute, irresistible, and infinite. When we say that God is sovereign we affirm His right to govern the universe, which He has made for His own glory, just as He pleases. We affirm that *His right* is the right of the Potter over the clay, i.e., that He may mould that clay into whatsoever form He chooses, fashioning out of *the same lump* one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor. (Isaiah 29:16)

‘But who are you, a man to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me thus?” Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for beauty and another for menial use? What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience, the vessels of wrath made for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for the vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory, even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?’ (Rom 9:19-23)

Mr. Pink continues: “We affirm that He is under no rule or law outside of His own will and nature, *that God is a law unto Himself*, and that He is under no obligation to give an account of

His matters to any.

Sovereignty characterizes the whole Being of God. He is sovereign in all His attributes. *He is sovereign in the exercise of His power.* His power is exercised *as He wills, when He wills, where He wills.* This fact is evidenced on every page of Scripture. For a long season that power appears to be dormant, and then it is put forth in irresistible might. Pharaoh dared to hinder Israel from going forth to worship Jehovah in the wilderness—what happened? God exercised His power, His people were delivered and their cruel task-masters slain. But a little later, the Amalekites dared to attack these same Israelites in the wilderness, and what happened? Did God put forth His power on this occasion and display His hand as He did at the Red Sea? Were these enemies of His people promptly overthrown and destroyed? No, on the contrary, the Lord swore that He would "have war with Amalek *from generation to generation*" (Ex. 17:16). Again, when Israel entered the land of Canaan, God's power was signally displayed. The city of Jericho barred their progress—what happened? Israel did not draw a bow nor strike a blow: the Lord stretched forth His hand and the walls fell down flat. But the miracle was never repeated! *No other city fell after this manner.* Every other city had to be captured by the sword!

Many other instances might be adduced illustrating the sovereign exercise of God's power. God put forth His power and David was delivered from Goliath, the giant; the mouths of the lions were closed and Daniel escaped unhurt; the three Hebrew children were cast into the burning fiery furnace and came forth unharmed and unscorched. *But God's power did not always interpose for the deliverance of His people,* for we read:

"And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword; they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented" (Heb. 11:36 - 37).

But why? Why were not these men of faith delivered like the others? Or, why were not the others suffered to be killed like these? Why should God's power interpose and rescue some and not the others? Why allow Stephen to be stoned to death, and then deliver Peter from prison?

God is sovereign in the *delegation of His power to others.* Why did God endow Methuselah with a vitality which enabled him to outlive all his contemporaries? Why did God impart to Samson a physical strength which no other human has ever possessed? Again; it is written,

"But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth" (Deut. 8:18),

but God does not bestow this power on all alike. Why not? Why has He given such power to men like Morgan, Carnegie, Rockefeller? The answer to all of these questions, is, because God is Sovereign, and being Sovereign He does as He pleases.

God is sovereign in the exercise of His mercy.

Necessarily so, for mercy is directed by the *will* of Him that showeth mercy. Mercy is not a *right* to which man is entitled. Mercy is that adorable attribute of God by which He pities and relieves the wretched. But under the righteous government of God no one is wretched who does not *deserve* to be so. The objects of mercy, then, are those who are miserable, and all misery is the result of *sin*, hence the miserable are deserving of punishment not mercy. To speak of *deserving mercy* is a contradiction of terms.

God bestows His mercies on whom He pleases and withholds them as seems good unto Himself. A remarkable illustration of this fact is seen in the manner that God responded to the prayers of two men offered under very similar circumstances. Sentence of death was passed upon Moses for one act of disobedience, and he besought the Lord for a reprieve. But was his desire gratified? No, he told Israel, **"And I besought the LORD at that time, saying, 'O Lord GOD, thou hast only begun to show thy**

servant thy greatness and thy mighty hand; for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as thine? Let me go over, I pray, and see the good land beyond the Jordan, that goodly hill country, and Lebanon.' But the LORD was angry with me on your account, and would not hearken to me; and the LORD said to me, 'Let it suffice you; speak no more to me of this matter.' (Deut 3:23-26)

Now mark the second case

"In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live. Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the Lord, saying, I beseech Thee, O Lord, remember now how I have walked before Thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in Thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore. And it came to pass, afore Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, that the word of the Lord came to him, saying, Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the Lord, the God of David thy father, *I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the Lord. And I will add unto thy days fifteen years*" (2 Kings 20:1-6).

Both of these men had the sentence of death in themselves, and both prayed earnestly unto the Lord for a reprieve: the one wrote: "The Lord would not hear me," and died; but to the other it was said, "I have heard thy prayer", and his life was spared. What an illustration and exemplification of the truth expressed in Romans, chapter 9

"For He says to Moses, *I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So it depends not upon man's will or exertion, but upon God's mercy*" (Rom 9:14-16)

The sovereign exercise of God's mercy—pity shown to the wretched—was displayed when Jehovah became flesh and tabernacled among men. Take one illustration. During one of the Feasts of the Jews, the Lord Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He came to the Pool of Bethesda, where lay "a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water." Among this "great multitude" there was "a certain man which had an infirmity thirty and eight years." What happened? "When Jesus saw *hint* lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith *unto him*, Wilt thou be made whole? The impotent man answered Him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked" (John 5:3-9). Why was this one man singled out from all the others? We are not told that he cried "Lord, have mercy *on me*." There is not a word in the narrative which intimates that this man possessed any qualifications which entitled him to receive special favor. Here then was a case of the sovereign exercise of Divine mercy, for it was just as easy for Christ to heal the whole of that "great multitude" as this one "certain man." But lie did not. He put forth His power and relieved the wretchedness of this one particular sufferer, and for some reason known only to Himself, He declined to do the same for the others. Again, we say, what an illustration and exemplification of Romans 9:15!—"I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."

God is sovereign in the exercise of His love.

Ah! That is a hard saying, who then can receive it? It is written, "A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven" (John 3:27). When we say that God is sovereign in the exercise of His love, we mean that He loves whom He chooses. God does not love everybody; if He did, He would love the Devil. Why does not God love the Devil? Because there is nothing in him *to love*; because there is nothing in him to *attract* the heart of God. Nor is there anything to *attract* God's love in any of the fallen sons of Adam, for *all* of them are, by nature, "children of *wrath*" (Eph. 2:3). If then there is nothing in any

member of the human race to attract God's love, and if, notwithstanding, He *does* love *some*, then it necessarily follows that the *cause* of His love must be found in Himself, which is only another way of saying that the exercise of God's love towards the fallen sons of men is according to His own good pleasure.

In the final analysis, the exercise of God's love *must* be traced back to His sovereignty, or, otherwise, He would *love by rule*; and if He loved by rule, then is He under *a law of love*, and if He is under a *law* of love then is He not supreme, but is Himself *ruled* by law. "But," it may be asked, "Surely you do not *deny* that God loves the entire human family?" We reply, it is written, "Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated" (Rom. 9:13). If then God loved Jacob and hated Esau, and that before they were born or had done either good or evil, then the *reason* for His love was not in them, but in Himself.

That the exercise of God's love *is* according to His own sovereign pleasure is also clear from the language of Ephesians 1:3-5, where we read,

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him. *In love having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself according to the good pleasure of His will.*"

It was "*in love*" that God the Father predestined His chosen ones unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, "according"—according to what? According to *some excellency* He discovered in them? No. What then? According to what He *foresaw* they would become? No; mark carefully the inspired answer—"According to the good pleasure of His will."

God is sovereign in the exercise of His grace.

This of necessity, for grace is favor shown to the *undeserving*, yea, to the Hell-deserving. Grace is the antithesis of justice. Justice demands the impartial enforcement of law. Justice requires that each shall receive his legitimate due, neither more nor less. Justice bestows no favors and is no respecter of persons. Justice, as such, shows no pity and knows no mercy. But after justice has been fully satisfied, grace flows forth. Divine grace is not exercised at the expense of justice, but "grace reigns through righteousness" (Rom. 5:21), and if grace "*reigns*", then is grace sovereign.

Grace has been defined as the unmerited favor of God; and if unmerited, then none can claim it as their inalienable *right*. If grace is unearned and undeserved, then none are *entitled* to it. If grace is a gift, then none can *demand* it. Therefore, as salvation is by grace, the free gift of God, then He bestows it on whom He pleases. Because salvation is by grace, the very chief of sinners is not beyond the reach of Divine mercy. Because salvation is by grace, boasting is excluded and God gets all the glory.

The sovereign exercise of grace is illustrated on nearly every page of Scripture. The Gentiles are left to walk in their own ways, while Israel becomes the covenant people of Jehovah. Ishmael the firstborn is cast out comparatively unblest, while Isaac the son of his parents' old age is made the child of promise. Esau the generous-hearted and forgiving-spirited is denied the blessing, though he sought it carefully with tears, while the worm Jacob receives the inheritance and is fashioned into a vessel of honor. So in the New Testament. Divine truth is hidden from the wise and prudent, but is revealed to babes. The Pharisees and Sadducees are left to go their own way, while publicans and harlots are drawn by the cords of love.

In a remarkable manner Divine grace was exercised at the time of the Saviour's birth. The incarnation of God's Son was one of the greatest events in the history of the universe, and yet its actual occurrence was not made known to all mankind; instead, it was specially revealed to the Bethlehem shepherds and wise men of the East. And this was prophetic and indicative of the entire course of this dispensation, for even today Christ is not made known to all. It would have been an easy matter for God to have sent a company of angels to *every nation* and announced the birth of His Son. But He did not. God could have readily attracted the attention of all mankind to the "star;" but He did not. Why? Because God is sovereign and dispenses His favors as He pleases. Note particularly the two classes to whom the birth of the Saviour *was* made known, namely, the most *unlikely* classes—illiterate shepherds and heathen from a far country. No angel stood before the Sanhedrin and announced the advent of Israel's Messiah! No "star" appeared unto the scribes and lawyers as they, in their pride and self-righteousness, searched the Scriptures! They searched diligently to find out where He should be born, and yet it was not made known *to them* when He was actually come. What a display of Divine sovereignty—the illiterate shepherds singled out for peculiar honor, and the learned and eminent passed by! And why was the birth of the Savior revealed to these foreigners, and not to those in whose midst He was born? See in this a wonderful foreshadowing of God's dealings with our race throughout the entire Christian dispensation—sovereign in the exercise of His grace, bestowing His favors on whom He pleases, often on the most unlikely and unworthy.

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD IN CREATION

Worthy art thou, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for thou didst create all things, and by thy will they existed and were created". (Rev 4:11)

Today, millions of educated people have conveniently dismissed the sovereign God of the Hebrew Scriptures as the Creator of all things. Instead, they accept the preposterous and Godless theory of evolution as established fact. In doing so, they naturally also reject the Bible as His written Word as in His Word He makes abundant claim to be the Creator of all things. History will show such rejection to be one of the great tragedies of the twentieth century. In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, we find him teaching appropriately (even if I use Paul slightly out of context!):

"Come to your right mind, and sin no more. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame. But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" You foolish man! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body which is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. For not all flesh is alike, but there is one kind for men, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. There are celestial bodies and there are terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. (1Cor 15:34-41)

God has built into his creation an endless variety from the Seraphim that surround His Throne to the vast endless galaxies of planets to the smallest insects that live only a few hours. He gave us much to ponder and much with which to give Him glory. As Sovereign, He does what He

pleases. In Psalm 135 He tells us:

**“For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods
Whatever the LORD pleases he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.
 He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth, who makes lightnings for the rain
 and brings forth the wind from his storehouses.” (Psalm 135:5-7)**

I cannot leave a section on God’s creation without including at least some portions of David’s eloquent praise of God’s handiwork in Psalm 104. Here it is for your meditation!

1 Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, thou art very great! Thou art clothed with honor and majesty, 2 who coverest thyself with light as with a garment, who hast stretched out the heavens like a tent, 3 who hast laid the beams of thy chambers on the waters, who makest the clouds thy chariot, who ridest on the wings of the wind, 4 who makest the winds thy messengers, fire and flame thy ministers. 5 Thou didst set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be shaken. 6 Thou didst cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. 7 At thy rebuke they fled; at the sound of thy thunder they took to flight. 8 The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place which thou didst appoint for them. 9 Thou didst set a bound which they should not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth. 10 Thou makest springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, 11 they give drink to every beast of the field; the wild asses quench their thirst. 12 By them the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches. 13 From thy lofty abode thou waterest the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy work. 14 Thou dost cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth, 15 and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread to strengthen man's heart. 16 The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon which he planted. 17 In them the birds build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees. 18 The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers. 19 Thou hast made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. 20 Thou makest darkness, and it is night, when all the beasts of the forest creep forth. 21 The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God. 22 When the sun rises, they get them away and lie down in their dens. 23 Man goes forth to his work and to his labor until the evening. 24 O LORD, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all; the earth is full of thy creatures. 25 Yonder is the sea, great and wide, which teems with things innumerable, living things both small and great. 26 There go the ships, and Leviathan which thou didst form to sport in it. 27 These all look to thee, to give them their food in due season. 28 When thou givest to them, they gather it up; when thou openest thy hand, they are filled with good things. 29 When thou hidest thy face, they are dismayed; when thou takest away their breath, they die and return to their dust. 30 When thou sendest forth thy Spirit, they are created; and thou renewest the face of the ground. 31 May the glory of the LORD endure forever, may the LORD rejoice in his works, 32 who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke! 33 I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. 34 May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD. 35 Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more! Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD!

Arthur Pink summarizes:

Learn then this basic truth, that the Creator is absolute sovereign, executing His own will, performing His own pleasure, and considering nought but His own glory.

“The Lord has made everything for His purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.” (Prov. 16:4)

And has He not a right to do so. Since God is God, who dare challenge His prerogative? To murmur against him is rank rebellion. Have we forgotten who He is? Behold,

“All nations are as nothing before Him; to Him they are reckoned less than nothing and emptiness. And to whom then will you liken God?” (Isaiah 40:17-18)

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD IN ADMINISTRATION

“YHVH has prepared His throne in the heavens; and His kingdom rules over all”. (Psalm 103:19)

Speaking of His firstborn Son through the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews, God tells us:

“He reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of His nature, upholding the universe by His word of power.” (Heb. 1:3)

In his book Arthur Pink asks:

“Is God governing this world of ours? Is He shaping the destinies of nations, controlling the course of empires, determining the limits of dynasties? Has He described the limits of evil-doers, saying, Thus far shalt thou go and no further? (See Job, chapter 38)

Let us suppose the opposite for a moment. Let us assume that God has delivered over the helm into the hand of His creatures, and see where such a supposition leads us. For the sake of argument we will say that every man enters this world endowed with a will that is absolutely free, and that it is *impossible* to compel or even coerce him without *destroying* his freedom. Let us say that every man possesses knowledge of right and wrong, that he has the power to choose between them, and that he is left entirely free to make his own choice and go his own way. Then what? Then it follows that man is *sovereign*, for he does as *he* pleases and is the architect of his own fortune. But in such a case we can have no assurance that ere long every man will reject the good and choose the evil. In such a case we have no guaranty against the entire human race committing moral suicide. Let all Divine restraints be removed and man be left absolutely free, and all ethical distinctions would immediately disappear, the spirit of barbarism would prevail universally, and pandemonium would reign supreme. Why not? If one nation deposes its rulers and repudiates its constitution, what is there to prevent all nations from doing the same? If little more than a century ago the streets of Paris ran with the blood of rioters, what assurance have we that before the present century closes every city throughout the world will not witness a similar sight? **What is there to hinder worldwide lawlessness and universal anarchy? Thus we have sought to show the *need*, the imperative need, for God to occupy the Throne, take the government upon *His* shoulder, and control the activities and destinies of His creatures.”**

Mr. Pink wrote these sobering words sometime in the first half of the twentieth century. Now, we live in time when at least one large nation – Somalia lacks a central government. It is a lawless nation with pirates and militias and Islamic gangs fighting to control the country. Libya is now mostly ruled by various armed gangs and radical Islamic groups. Several other strategic nations such as Syria, Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen, Afghanistan are either fighting civil wars or in danger of collapse. The rogue nation of Iran is very close to developing nuclear weapons with Israel looking to attack them to try to prevent it from happening. World leaders are rightly alarmed!

Now, how precious and assuring is the knowledge that we have a sovereign God who will exercise control in His own good time? We have a God who has told us from ancient times how it all will work out. These are reassuring words spoken by God through His prophet Isaiah over 2500 years ago:

"Remember this and consider, recall it to mind, you transgressors, 9 remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,' 11 calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it. 12 "Hearken to me, you stubborn of heart, you who are far from deliverance: 13 I bring near my deliverance, it is not far off, and my salvation will not tarry; I will put salvation in Zion, for Israel my glory." (Isaiah 46:8-13)

Further, God gives us a second witness through His prophet Amos:

"Surely the Lord God does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets." (Amos 3:7)

Indeed, we find the greatest prophet of all making a prediction of world conditions that far exceeded the scenario of total world pandemonium speculated by Pink. In Matthew chapter 24 Yahshua Messiah prophesied of total destruction of all of humanity but for God's intervention in human affairs in sending His Son to establish His Millennial Kingdom. Here are the relevant supporting scriptures from Matthew's gospel:

"For then there will be great tribulation, such has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. And if those days had not been shortened, no human being would be saved; but for the sake of the elect, those days will be shortened." (Matt 24:21-22)

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken; then will appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory; and he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

(Matt 24:29-31)

"Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." 16 And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying, "We give thanks to thee, Lord God Almighty, who art and who wast, that thou hast taken thy great power and begun to reign.

18 The nations raged, but thy wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, for rewarding thy servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear thy name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth." 19 Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple; and there were flashes of lightning, voices, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail." (Rev 11:15-19)

Yes, the nations can rage all they want. Their rage will be in vain! O foolish nations! Would that they would study the Bible to discover the sovereignty that the God of the Hebrew Scriptures has over His Creation. Not even their fearsome nuclear bombs will cause HIM to blink. We have seen in this short study that nothing will thwart the establishment of His purposes! The world has plenty to fear with what is prophesied for the times up ahead. As in the times of Noah, God has given and is giving the world adequate warnings through His Word and through His prophets. But in their carnal minds they refuse to heed and repent.

Having faith in God's great promises, the elect have nothing to fear. Yahshua counseled them: **"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom."** (Luke 12:32)

Surely, we can be confident that the Sovereign Father of us all will bring that promise to pass!