

LET GOD BE SOVEREIGN

A Bible Study

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Sovereignty

noun, plural sov·er·eign·ties.

- the quality or state of being sovereign, or of having supreme power or authority.
- the status, dominion, power, or authority of a sovereign; royal rank or position; royalty.
- supreme and independent power or authority in government as possessed or claimed by a state or community.
- rightful status, independence, or prerogative.
- a sovereign or independent state, community, or political unit.

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- one of the most important principles in Christian theology, as well as one of its most hotly debated.
 - Whether or not God is actually sovereign is usually **not** a topic of debate; all mainstream Christian sects agree that God is preeminent in power and authority. God's sovereignty is a natural consequence of His Omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence.

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- What's subject to disagreement is to what extent God applies His sovereignty—specifically, how much control He exerts over the wills of men. When we speak of the sovereignty of God, we mean He rules the universe, but then the debate begins over when and where His control is direct and when it is indirect.

Deuteronomy 10:14

“Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens *is* the LORD'S thy God, the earth *also*, with all that therein *is*.”

Psalm 24:1

“The earth *is* the LORD'S, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.”

Psalm 50: 10-11

For every beast of the forest *is* mine, *and* the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field *are* mine.

Daniel 4: 34-35

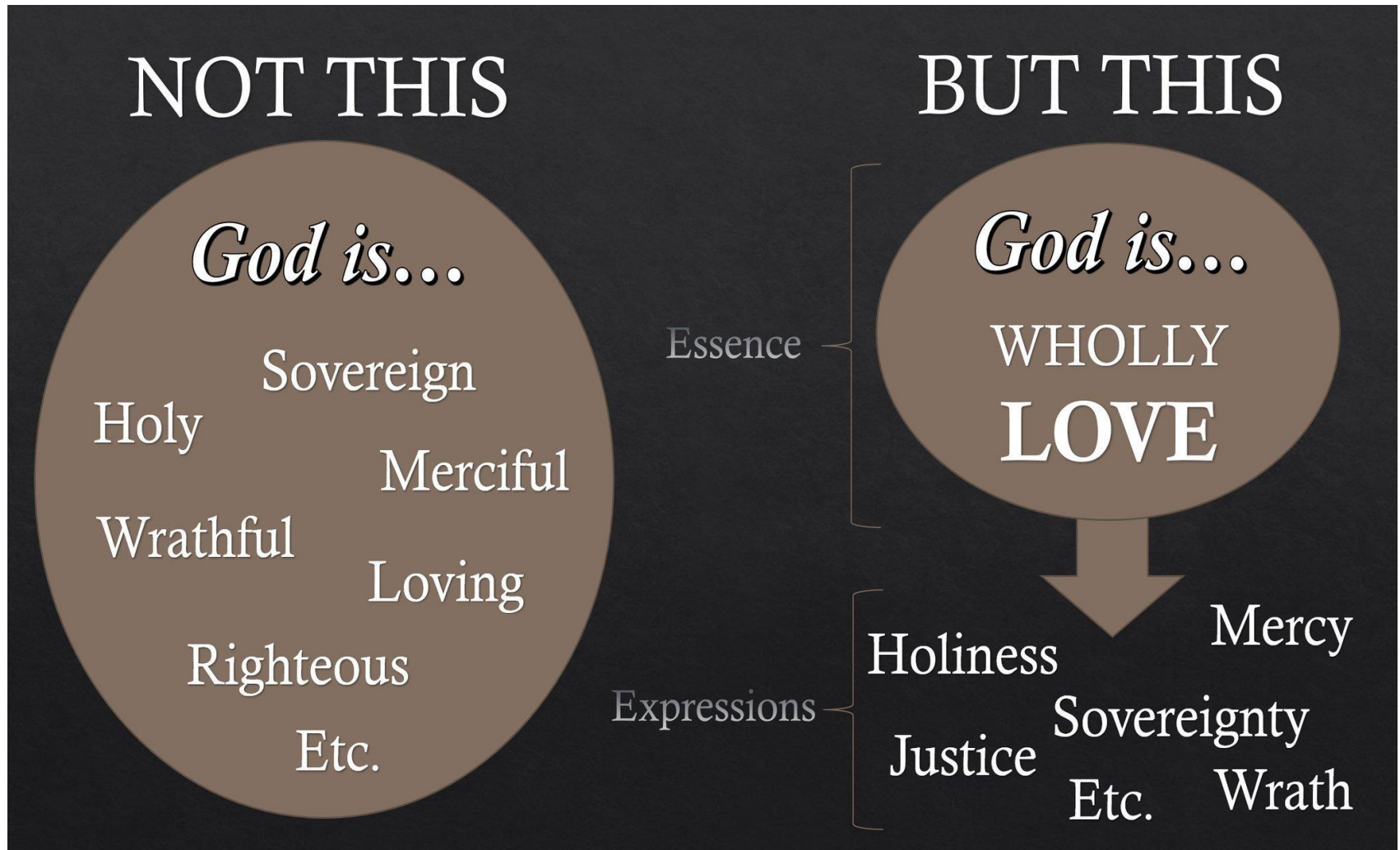
And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom *is* from generation to generation:

And all the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and *among* the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

Ephesians 1:11

In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh **all things** after the counsel of his own will:

His essence dictates His qualities




Romans 8: 35- 39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.




For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor
angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things
present, nor things to come,


Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be
able to separate us from the love of God, which is in
Christ Jesus our Lord.

Different views of God's Sovereignty

1. **Meticulous sovereignty:** God is the *instrumental cause* behind every action and reaction there has ever been. For this view, in order for God to be truly sovereign, he must be the *ultimate and instrumental cause* for everything, including sin. Everything that happens, God causes it to happen.



2. Providential oversight: Here God's sovereignty is expressed in active oversight. He has a general plan, but is not married to the details. God can *and often does* intervene in the affairs of humanity to bring about his purpose. In this case he *never* "wills" evil; he only uses it. He allows things to happen but he does not cause them.



3 . Providential sovereignty: God is bringing about his will in everything. However, his will is not the *instrumental* cause of all that happens. God's will plays a *providential* role in “causing” all things, using secondary causes as instruments. Ultimately, everything that happens, happens according to His will, whether he causes it or permits it.

Understanding God's Will

Decretive Will (Must Happen)


- Ephesians 1:11
- Romans 9:18
- Acts 4:28
- Acts 2:23
- Romans 1:10

Prescriptive Will (A desire subject to obedience or disobedience)

- 1 Thes 5:18
- Ephesians 5:17
- 1 Thes 4:3
- Mark 10:19
- 1 Timothy 2: 3-4
- Matthew 6:10

Our responsibility is to the prescriptive will of God

- Hebrews 10:36
- 1 Peter 2:15
- 2 Peter 3:9



The sovereign decretive will of God will be done in the earth without human participation. God is not sovereign in our lives until we respond to His prescriptive will. Much of what we claim He has decreed, He only prescribed. Obedience to the prescription brings manifestation.