

Our Great God

June 24, 2018

The Bible teaches that God is Sovereign.

God uses his sovereignty to determine that we can all become like Jesus.

*For God knew his people in advance, **and he chose them to become like his Son**, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. (Romans 8:29, NLT)*

God uses his sovereignty to determine that we can all be saved through Jesus.

*Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family **by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ**. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. (Ephesians 1:4–5, NLT)*

God's heart is that everyone would choose to repent and turn to Jesus.

*The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. **He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent**. (2 Peter 3:9, NLT)*

God has given everyone a choice about whether or not they will trust in Jesus.

*If you openly **declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart** that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. (Romans 10:9–10, NLT)*

But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12, NLT)

*They replied, "**Believe in the Lord Jesus** and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household." (Acts 16:31, NLT)*

Five truths about God's Sovereignty.

1. God has the right to decide who he will work through to accomplish his purposes.

*"It is **through Isaac** that your offspring will be reckoned." (Romans 9:7, NIV)*

*But **before they were born, before they had done anything good or bad, she received a message from God**. (This message shows that God chooses people according to his own purposes; he calls people, but not according to their good or bad works.) She was told, "Your older son will serve your younger son." In the words of the Scriptures, "**I loved Jacob, but I rejected Esau**." (Romans 9:11–13, NLT)*

2. God has the right to bless whoever he wants to bless to accomplish his purposes.

*Are we saying, then, that God was unfair? Of course not! For God said to Moses, "**I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose**." (Romans 9:14–15, NLT)*

3. God has a right to receive all the glory.

*For the Scriptures say that God told Pharaoh, "**I have appointed you for the very purpose of displaying my power in you and to spread my fame throughout the earth**." (Romans 9:17, NLT)*

*He does this to **make the riches of his glory shine even brighter** on those to whom he shows mercy, who were prepared in advance*

for glory. And we are among those whom he selected, both from the Jews and from the Gentiles. (Romans 9:23–24, NLT)

4. God gives us a measure of freedom.

*Well then, you might say, “Why does God blame people for not responding? **Haven’t they simply done what he makes them do?**” (Romans 9:19, NLT)*

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8–9, NIV)

5. God’s way is trustworthy.

*When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” **For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;** (James 1:13, NIV)*

Don’t stumble over the rock in your path...

Why not? Because they were trying to get right with God by keeping the law instead of by trusting in him. They stumbled over the great rock in their path. (Romans 9:32, NLT)

*God warned them of this in the Scriptures when he said, “I am placing a stone in Jerusalem that makes people stumble, a rock that makes them fall. **But anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.**” (Romans 9:33, NLT)*