

I. Background on the Gospel of John

The original intent of John's Gospel . . . John 20:30-31

1. That you may believe:
 Jesus is the Messiah
 Jesus is the Son of God
2. That in believing you may have life

John is a beautifully **unique** Gospel in its **balance** between revealing Jesus as the majestic "**Son of God**" while **continually reminding us of His humanity**.

Mark name – "**Jesus**" 83 times, *Luke* 88 x, *Matthew* 151 x, and *John* 247 times!

Matthew – the Messiah the king – His **authority**

Mark – the Messiah the servant – His **humility**

Luke – He's the "Son of Man" – the **man who is God** – the man of ideal perfection –

John – He's the "**Son of God**" but **not unapproachable**, but the **One who condescends**
100% man and 100% God.

When we are done, we are going to get to KNOW Jesus better!

The first 18 verses of John contain the doctrine of the nature of Christ

II. The neglected subject of the Sovereignty of God

"In the beginning" Greek: "*En archay*," Hebrew: "*B'raysheet*"

Isa 46:8-10

We start out with our problems and then work backwards to try to see how God fits in.

Somehow the Absolutely Sovereign, all loving God is consistent with tragedy . . .
How? . . . We can not fully understand . . .

"There are no renegade atoms"

Do you believe Romans 8:28? Why? How can God say such a thing?

What is Providence?

1. inanimate matter:
 - light, the Nile river, the dust, etc. in Egypt, The Red Sea, the wind and rain, the sun, the stars
2. animals
 - Adam to name them, Noah 2 by 2, the frogs, the lice, the cattle, the flies, etc. in Egypt, the ravens fed Elijah, a donkey rebukes a prophet, the lions, the fish.
3. angels and Satan himself
 - Angels sent to Jerusalem to execute judgment, His angel delivered Peter from Herod, in the end-times, an evil spirit to stir up Abimelech, a lying spirit to Ahab, an evil spirit troubled Saul, a legion of demons, Satan himself (Job, Peter).

4. Most would agree with everything I said so far, but what about man?
- Judas, Herod, Pilate, the Gentiles and the Jews, Paul's pagan audience, Prov 16:9, 19:21, Prov 21:1, the rich fool, Jacob and Esau, Joseph, Pharaoh, Balam.

CHANCE in NOTHING

III. The attribute of God's sustaining

“*bara*” carries with it the idea of **SUSTAINING**.

What He creates He sustains . . . He keeps.

If God ceased to exist for one milli-second, the universe would perish!

Calvin:

“Man never achieves a clear knowledge of himself unless he has first looked upon God's face then descends from contemplating Him to scrutinize himself.”

God's Sovereignty is practical stuff!

IV. A warning: God's Sovereignty is not a popular doctrine

And as the end-time church **falls away**, we will see the **rise of the doctrine of self** . . .

What does the Bible say about self-esteem?

Signs of the apostasy in our so-called worship.

Psalm 2 expresses the mindset of the **world (& church) today**

What we do as a church and **what we exist for** . . . **Begins and ends with God.**

Isaiah 43:12b-13, 14:27; 45:5-7; 46:9-10

Deuteronomy 4:39,

“Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that the LORD, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other.”

The error of the church:

1) Limiting God's Power; and 2) Exalting man's abilities;

Martin Luther called the issue of **“God's Sovereignty”**

“the HINGE upon which the whole [reformation] turned.”

The challenge of the church:

stand for Truth

as the world around us **slips into more and more tragedy . . .**

and as the **people turn to the church for answers**

as to why this is happening,