

The Truth about Sovereignty – Part 2

Second, does God have an ultimate purpose and plan?

1. The answer in a nutshell is - absolutely! God has an eternal purpose and plan that He is working out. But an unbiblical idea of sovereignty will cause people to get some wacky ideas concerning God's plan.
2. For example, here is a quote from author David Steele in his book, *The Five Points of Calvinism*.
 - "Scripture teaches that all events (both small and great) come about as the result of God's eternal decree. The Lord God rules over heaven and earth with absolute control. Nothing comes to pass apart from His eternal purpose."
3. In this theology, everything happens because God determined before the foundation of the world that it had to happen. Satan and mankind are mere puppets playing out a part to a script already written.
 - You are here tonight, wearing that color shirt because you had no choice. It was eternally decreed, God willed it, and it has to be.
 - The Columbine killings, the murder of the Amish children, the 911 attacks had to happen because God purposed it, He willed it, and He decreed it.
 - This is a gross misunderstanding of sovereignty and is the sovereignty of Islam.
 - Quotes from articles about the fatalism of Islam
 - Fatalism is defined by Webster's as "a doctrine that events are fixed in advance so that human beings are powerless to change them."
 - Book - *The Market Driven Church* by Udo Middelmann - he calls it the "Islamization of Christianity."
4. Does God have a plan for the earth, the heavens, and mankind? Let's look into God's Word and see.
5. In Genesis 2, God worked for six days creating this incredible earth and mankind.
 - According to **Psalm 132:13-14**, God marked a piece of real estate on the earth where He planned on living, dwelling, and resting with mankind forever.
 - The plan was for mankind to have dominion (governorship) over the earth and walk in fellowship with God. This is why mankind was created with volition (the power to choose and make decisions). He would be representing God on the earth and making decisions. **Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 8:4-9**
 - Adam would name the animals. Adam and Eve would shape their relationship, have babies, make a living, etc. They were created in the image of their Creator; therefore they must be able to make choices and decisions. **Genesis 2:18-25**
6. In Genesis 3, God's rest (**Genesis 2:1-3**) was broken by mankind's choice to sin and rebel against God. Satan usurped man's God-given authority over the earth and Satan became the prince (first in rank or power) of this world. **John 14:30, 16:11**
 - He is also called the "god of this world" in **2 Corinthians 4:4**.
7. But God has a plan. God's plan to live and dwell with mankind in perfect peace will still yet happen (**Revelation 21:3**). Why is this? Because God became a man in the person of Jesus Christ and through His cross-work defeated Satan. He has made it possible for mankind to reclaim all that was lost in Adam.
8. God's plan is to reclaim the earth and the heavens (which have been defiled by sin) and make everything center in and glorify His Son, Jesus Christ. **Ephesians 1:9-11**

- A fatalist may look at this passage and say, "See, God works all things according to the counsel of His will..." But what is the context?
 - Paul draws this idea from **Isaiah 46:9-11**. In this passage, what is God's counsel and purpose? Look at verse 13. It is to accomplish the prophetic program and establish His kingdom in Israel.
 - Paul applies this in Ephesians 1 to God accomplishing His purpose in the mystery program for the church, the body of Christ.
9. God has a plan for this earth and the heavens.
 - God has a plan to glorify His Son throughout this entire earth. The instrument He will use to accomplish His purpose is the nation of Israel.
 - God has a plan to glorify His Son throughout the heavens. The instrument He will use to accomplish His purpose is the church, the body of Christ.
 10. This is God's purpose and plan. Satan won't stop it and sinful mankind won't stop it. There are many sinful, wicked things that happen that God didn't **plan** to happen, but it won't keep His ultimate plan from being accomplished.
 11. In Christ (the Son of man), mankind will regain dominion over this earth.
Psalm 72; Daniel 7:13-14, 27
 12. God has a plan, but when you read about it in the Bible, it is not some fatalistic plan. God did not pre-plot before the foundation of the world every detail of every person's life.
 13. God has an **ultimate** plan and purpose that He is working out, but invites men and women to participate in this plan. They can accept or choose to rebel. This is the subject of our next point.

Revelation

Rapture

**(Mystery)
Age of
Grace**



**Old Testament
(The Law)**

Church Age

**Tribulation
7 Years**

**Kingdom
1000 Years**

