



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

Presenting every man perfect in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

Volume 42
Issue 1040

Select Passages Demonstrating God's Sovereignty

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His Sovereignty rules over all (Psalm 103:19, NASV).

And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive (Genesis 50:20).

And the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes him dumb or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?" (Exodus 4:11).

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that I may perform these signs of Mine among them ... that you may know that I am the LORD" (Exodus 10:1-2).

For the LORD your God hardened his [the king's] spirit and made his heart obstinate ... (Deuteronomy 2:30).

See now that I, I am He, and there is no god besides Me; it is I Who puts to death and gives life. I have wounded, and it is I Who heals; and there is no one who can deliver from My hand (Deuteronomy 32:39).

Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem ... (Judges 9:23).

The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to Sheol and raises up. The LORD makes poor and rich; He brings low, He also exalts (I Samuel 2:6-7).

And the Spirit of Yahweh turned aside from Saul, and a spirit of evil from Yahweh terrified him (I Samuel 16:14, CV).

... The spirit of evil from Elohim prospers over Saul ...
(I Samuel 18:10, CV).

... And a spirit of evil from Yahweh is unto Saul (I Samuel 19:9, CV).

Are You not God in Heaven? And do You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations? And is there power and might in Your hand, so that none is able to withstand You? (II Chronicles 20:6, MKJV).

... The LORD gives, and the LORD takes away. Praise the name of Yahweh (Job 1:21, HCSB).

... What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? (Job 2:10).

Yet He is One, and who can turn Him back? What His soul has yearned for He shall do (Job 23:13, CV).

I know that Thou canst do all things, and that no purpose of Thine can be thwarted (Job 42:2).

The steps of a man are established by the LORD ...
(Psalm 37:23).

(see SOVEREIGNTY, page 874)

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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 42, No. 1040 – October 7, 2024

Scripture education in a weekly format!

This free electronic publication is dedicated to:

- the absolute sovereignty and deity of God (Romans 11:36);
- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation that God will save all through the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3-4; 4:10; Titus 2:11);
- the universality of death and resurrection (I Corinthians 15:21);
- the unique gospel of Paul – which he calls "my gospel" (Romans 2:16; 16:25; II Timothy 2:8; I Corinthians 15:1-4; Acts 13-28; Acts 20:24);
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret in ages past" (Romans 16:25);
- the epistles of the present Secret Administration being Ephesians & Colossians (Ephesians 3:2, 9; Colossians 1:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the One Body (Ephesians 4:16);
- the Secret Administration, being the operational revelation for today (Ephesians 3:9);
- the unprophesied, Celestial hope and calling of the One Body (Colossians 3:4);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Ephesians 3:1-3);
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15);
- the recovery of rich Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding and fear (Mark 7:7, 13);
- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with:
 - total freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14);

- union in His death, burial and resurrection and ascended seated position among the celestials (Ephesians 2:6);
- adult sonship position (Ephesians 1:5).

This publication is the product of humble efforts of ordinary men intended to stimulate the earnest study of Scripture. We do not claim infallibility for the contents of this publication; thus they are not meant to imply finality on any subject discussed, or that further research would not add further light from the Word of God. God's storehouse of truth is inexhaustible, so draw on its wealth by prayerful study. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

This publication is not connected with any "church," "denomination," "movement," "organization," "mission," "creed," "meeting," "school," "conference" or "fellowship."

We are always open for discussion, but never for disputation. – André Sneidar

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Our God is in Heaven; He does whatever pleases Him
(Psalm 115:3).

out of My hand; I will work, and who will reverse it?
(Isaiah 43:13, MKJV).

Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, in heaven and in earth, in seas and in all deeps (Psalm 135:6).

I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things (Isaiah 45:7).

In Thy book they were all written, the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them (Psalm 139:16).

For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, “My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure” ... Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it (Isaiah 46:9-11).

The LORD has made everything for its own purpose, even the wicked for the day of evil (Proverbs 16:4).

Behold, I Myself have created the smith who blows the fire of coals, and brings out a weapon for its work; and I have created the destroyer to ruin (Isaiah 54:16).

The ordering of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from Jehovah. (Proverbs 16:9. MKJV).

The mind of man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps (Proverbs 16:9).

So shall My Word be which goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it (Isaiah 55:11).

The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD (Proverbs 16:33).

Why, O LORD, dost Thou cause us to stray from Thy ways, and harden our heart from fearing Thee? (Isaiah 63:17).

Man's steps are ordained by the LORD; how then can man understand his way? (Proverbs 20:24).

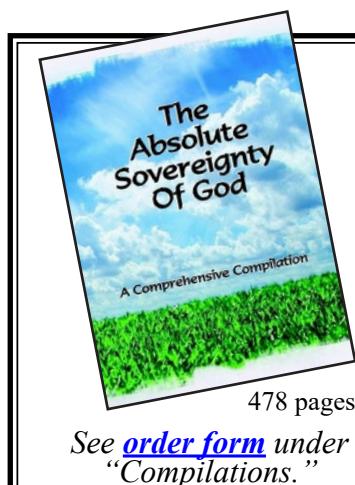
Yet LORD, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You are our potter; we all are the work of Your hands (Isaiah 64:8, HCSB).

The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes (Proverbs 21:1).

I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself; nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps (Jeremiah 10:23).

The LORD of Hosts Himself has planned it; therefore, who can stand in its way? It is His hand that is outstretched, so who can turn it back? (Isaiah 14:27, HCSB).

Yea, before the day was, I am He; and no one delivers



The Absolute Sovereignty of God ***(A Comprehensive Compilation)***

This quintessential book victoriously celebrates and convincingly proclaims the absolute sovereignty of God. Sadly, religion has veiled the truth of the God of the Bible, making Him either an aloof deity, indifferent to the condition of the creation, or one who is at the worst cruel or at the least unloving and uncaring. Yet the loving Deity of Sacred Scripture always has had and will have sole and complete control over His entire creation. This ultimate collection of 100 works by 34 authors spans nearly 175 years. It is an extensive reference work that is essential for every library.

The LORD has done what He purposed; He has accomplished His Word which He commanded from days of old (Lamentations 2:17).

Who is there who speaks and it comes to pass, unless the LORD has commanded it? Is it not from the mouth of the Most HIGH that both good and evil go forth? (Lamentations 3:37-38).

For I the LORD shall speak, and whatever Word I speak will be performed (Ezekiel 12:25).

It is He Who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings ... (Daniel 2:21).

... The Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He will, and sets up over it the lowest of men (Daniel 4:17, MKJV).

He does according to His will in the Host of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth; and no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, “What hast Thou done?” (Daniel 4:35).

If evil occurs in a city, has not the LORD done it? (Amos 3:6).

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs on your head are numbered. (Matthew 10:29-30, NIV).

A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from Heaven (John 3:27).

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him (John 6:44).

For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father. (John 6:65).

Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again, “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, so that they should not see with their eyes nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them” (John 12:39-40, MKJV).

You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above (John 19:11).

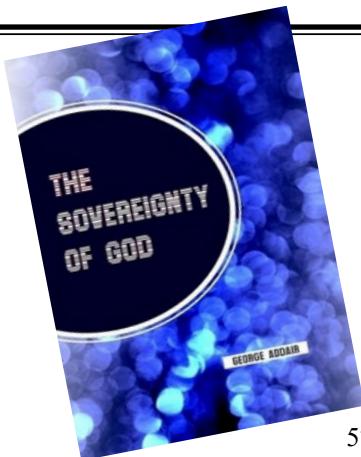
This Man [Christ], delivered up by the predetermined plan and the foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men ... (Acts 2:23).

For truly in this city there were gathered together against Thy holy servant Jesus, Whom Thou didst anoint, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever Thy hand and Thy purpose predestined to occur (Acts 4:27-28).

As many as had been ordained to eonian life believed (Acts 13:48).

Known from the ages to God are all His works (Acts 15:18, YLT).

The God Who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of Heaven and Earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands, nor is served with men's



57 pages

The Sovereignty of God

by — George Addair

The trend of the centuries has consistently been that of the exaltation of man and the abasement of God. Many feel that the Creator has delegated His rule and authority to the use or abuse of the creature. They have reduced God and His Divine office to the extent that multitudes of people now have only a superficial conception of Him.

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hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives life and breath and all things to all. And He has made all nations of men of one blood to dwell on all the face of the Earth, ordaining fore-appointed seasons and boundaries of their dwelling, to seek the Lord, if perhaps they might feel after Him and find Him, though indeed He is not far from each one of us. For in Him we live and move and have our being, as also certain of your own poets have said, “For we are also His offspring” (Acts 17:24-28, MKJV).

For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him Who subjected it in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God (Romans 8:20-21).

For us, who love God, who are the called according to His purpose, there is an awareness that He is working all together for good (Romans 8:28, BSV).

For though the twins were not yet born, and had not done anything good or bad, in order that God's purpose according to His choice might stand, not because of works, but because of Him Who calls ... (Romans 9:11).

So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God Who has mercy (Romans 9:16).

For the Scripture tells Pharaoh: “I raised you up for

this reason so that I may display My power in you and that My name may be proclaimed in all the earth” (Romans 9:17, HCSB).

... For who has resisted His will? (Romans 9:19, MKJV).

Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honor, and another for dishonor? (Romans 9:21).

For God has shut up all men in disobedience that He may show mercy to all (Romans 11:32).

For out of Him, and through Him, and to Him is all: to Whom be majesty for the ages. Amen (Romans 11:36, BSV).

... For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist are instituted by God (Romans 13:1, HCSB).

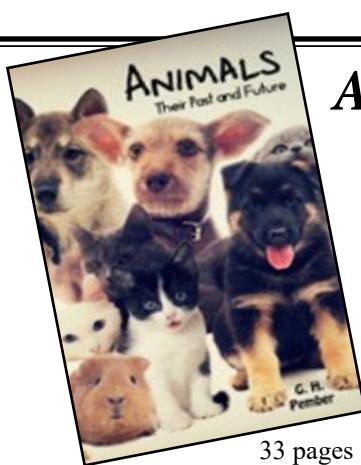
... What do you have that you did not receive? (I Corinthians 4:7),

... There is but one God, the Father, of Whom are all things ... (I Corinthians 8:6).

... Yet all is of God ... (II Corinthians 5:18, CV).

In Him in Whom our lot was cast also, being designated beforehand according to the purpose of the One Who is operating all in accord with the counsel of His

(see [SOVEREIGNTY](#), last page)



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Animals: Their Past and Future

by — G.H. Pember (1837–1910)

This short, yet insightful Scripture study of the animal kingdom is from the author of the classic, *Earth's Earliest Ages*. Although he approaches this subject from the erroneous, traditional teaching of the ‘immortality of the soul,’ which he extends to the animal kingdom, he nonetheless aptly dispels other myths and mistranslations that have barred a proper understanding of animals. He correctly contends that both man and animal are *nephesh chaiyah* – “a living soul,” and that resurrection extends to the animal kingdom. In elementary fashion he makes a notable addition to the theme of God’s grand plan of redemption that includes animals, by what he calls “the Scriptural proof of the immortality of all God’s creation.” He also stresses the theme of the just treatment of animals, proposing that our current dealings with animals are to be vested, like ours, in their glorious future.



Tidbits of Truth #71

“Tidbits” is a column dedicated to short comments, thoughts, studies and excerpts.

I suppose that all who do biblical research wish at times that they could set forth fragmentary and unfinished ideas in printed form without people thinking that a final and definitive conclusion has now been chiseled into imperishable granite which shall stand forever as the final word on the subject dealt with. Any such conclusion will be far from correct. — Otis Sellers (1901-1992)

Placed by the Placer

It's a wonderful thing being placed by the Placer, every moment, every day, every year, wherever we are, whatever we're doing. At the beginning of seventh grade, our science teacher wrote three questions on the chalk board: Where am I from? Where am I? Where am I going? I wasn't quite sure how to answer those questions at the time. Now I'm happy to say: We're all from the Placer. We're all in the Placer. And we're all on a wonderful journey into the Placer, deeper, higher, further in every direction, to enjoy him.

Back in the 1990's, in a quaint neighborhood where I lived in Atlanta seven years with my wife and two children, a neighbor and brother in Christ had this little sign on his door: Get lost ... in Him. I liked that little sign. Now I'm happy to say: Whether lost in Him, whether found in Him, it's all good, and getting better by the day.

— Jeff Bohlender

The Hating of One's Enemies in the Old Testament

[To: G.B.] Actually, Mike Owen's *Daily Email Goodie* on “Higher Standards” was spot-on. The article link that you provided was written by someone who does not understand the nature of progressive revelation. To downplay the stern and exclusive nature of the “Old Testament” is to miss what was actually going on, and what its purpose was in the divine plan of God. To water down the teachings and character of God's stern dealings with mankind in the past, is

equally to water down His glorious dealings later to be revealed by Christ through Paul.

In the “Old Testament” God clearly presents Himself as hating those who are evil, cruel and wicked (Psalm 5:5; 11:5; 45:7). Thus, David likewise hated his own enemies (II Samuel 5:8), and prays for God to hit his enemies in the jaw and break their teeth out, etc. (Psalm 3:7; cf. II Samuel 22:41). Similarly, Moses prayed for the Lord to smite his enemies (Deuteronomy 33:11).

While God, in the essence of His nature, may be unchanging, He has certainly changed the way in which He has dealt with people, and the way in which He has revealed Himself through the ages.¹ It is all a Divine Contrast. As vital as our current truths of divine love and grace are, they must first be understood in the contrasting context of perceived “divine” hatred and wrath. We can't shortcut Divine Revelation.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Letter to Bryn: On the Death of Her Dog Cappy

Hi Bryn,

I was thinking about the various dogs God has placed in my life and how difficult it's been each time one of these wonderful creatures has died.

Then I'm reminded that the same Creator who gave

1. For a beginning resource, see the article - “*The Greatest Actor of All Time*,” Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., in [Bible Student's Notebook 751](#).



us our pets is also their designer. He created them to live relatively short lives.

Not sure why – but that's part of His perfect plan.

In light of that, we can go forward with thankful hearts. Thankful that God gave you Cappy for the time you had her in your life – AND – thankful for the fact that He put you in her life!

Don't be afraid to bring another dog into your life when the time arises.

I still remember and think of all my dogs that God has given me over my lifetime – and Heidi and Garth make me think of them all the time.

I love you and I hope you always remember Cappy – as future pets come into your life.

— Granpa (Mike Owens)

“Surviving” the Tribulation

I Thessalonians 4:13-17

When people who hold on to the idea that Thessalonians 4:13-17 is about the “Rapture” and won’t turn loose of the idea that this is for believers today and that it could happen any minute, remind them that the word “surviving” (:15, CV) means that those “Snatched Away” have **survived** through the Great Tribulation just before Christ returns.

These verses are for the Great Tribulation **overcomers** who just went through 3-½ years of “Hell on Earth.” The “One Body” “Ecclesia which is His Body” will have been long gone to meet Christ in Glory (Colossians 3:4) before the Pre Millennial Kingdom starts.

Here are telling words from a “Rapture” believer:

One word: SURVIVING. When that word is used, it's usually in reference to “barely hanging on.” In a sentence: “She was just surviving in this life.” NOT a good state or way to live. When you are unhappy with your life, some say “I'm just surviving” (just barely getting by). So, in summary, I believe the Body

of Christ that will be going up to meet Jesus will be undergoing some degree of danger, some sort of unpleasantness at that moment in “*this evil world*.”

Now let's read the actual verses:

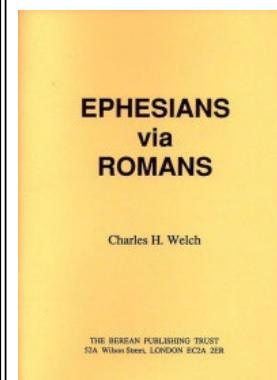
Now we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are reposing, lest you may sorrow according as the rest, also, who have no expectation. For, if we are believing that Jesus died and rose, thus also, those who are put to repose, will God, through Jesus, lead forth together with Him. For this we are saying to you by the word of the Lord, that we, the living, who are surviving to the presence of the Lord, should by no means outstrip those who are put to repose, for the Lord Himself will be descending from heaven with a shout of command, with the voice of the Chief Messenger, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ shall be rising first, thereupon we, the living who are surviving, shall at the same time be snatched away together with them in clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And thus shall we always be together with the Lord. So that, console one another with these words (I Thessalonians 4:13-17, CV).

— James D. Fine

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: [The Hating of Ones Enemies in the Old Testament:] Hate [Placed by the Placer:] Placer; Placing; Sovereignty [Letter to Bryn: On the Death of Her Dog Cappy:] Animals; Pets (see Animals) [“Surviving” the Tribulation:] Second Coming; I Thessalonians 4:15-17



Ephesians via Romans
by — Charles H. Welch
(1880-1967)

In the style of a two-way conversation, this work illustrates that the unique blessings of Ephesians are based on the blessings that all believers have received, as detailed in the book of Romans.

38 pages

See [order form](#) under “Welch.”



It truly is “line upon line, here a little and there a little” as Father grows us up in understanding His Will. The highest “prize” ever afforded to creation is our position with Christ in the highest Heavens, “far above.” ...

How much **more** should we be grateful in all things, even while enduring the temporary difficult things that are common to mortal humans. They are but a brief step in our journey; we know its joy is guaranteed and sealed in the attributes of God our Father. ... Thanks for the sound teaching. – **IN**

Exposure to trauma shows itself in various ways. Left untreated, this trauma turns to burnout and, of course, stress. Add a life-changing event like the death of a loved one and you have a recipe for disaster.

When this happened to me, I questioned my faith and my purpose in life. Then, a friend handed me a book.¹ Although I participate in a different religion, God’s message speaks to us from all avenues.

I have reaffirmed my purpose, and my doubt no longer exists. I have always believed this line of work is God’s work and I will continue to persevere. Thank you, Mr. Pilkington! – **PA** **BSN**

1. [Nothing Will Be Lost! The Truth About God’s Good News](#), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Bible Student’s Press (on the [order form](#) under “Pilkington”).

SOVEREIGNTY (continued from page 8743)

will (Ephesians 1:11, CV).

This was in accordance with the purpose of the ages which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord (Ephesians 3:11).

One God and Father of all Who is over all and through all and in all (Ephesians 4:6).

For it is God Who works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13, MKJV).

Therefore, God will be sending them an operation of deception, for them to believe the falsehood (II Thessalonians 2:11, CV).

Who wills all mankind be saved and come into a realization of the truth (I Timothy 2:4).

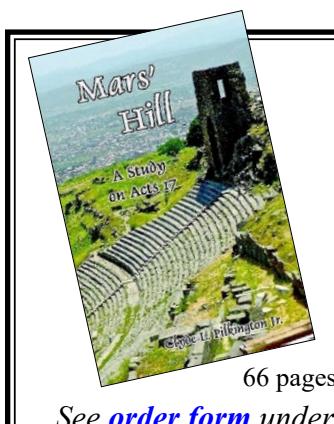
*Who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus before times eonian (II Timothy 1:9). **BSN***

TOPICS:

Major: Sovereignty

**GOD’S
PURPOSE WILL
NOT BE HURRIED.**

JOHN H. ESSEX (1907-1991)



66 pages
See [order form](#) under
“Clyde Pilkington.”

Mars’ Hill: A Study on Acts 17

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Even among those who place a great emphasis on Paul, with his unique apostleship and message, there is an amazing neglect of one of his most outstanding messages found in the Book of Acts: his message given on Mars’ Hill. The content of his message to this group of unbelieving pagans has been overlooked for far too long. These words of Paul contain a very rich message. Preserved in the Scriptures, we know that, not only was it a challenge to the pagans of Athens, but it will prove to be a challenge to the members of Christ’s Body as well.