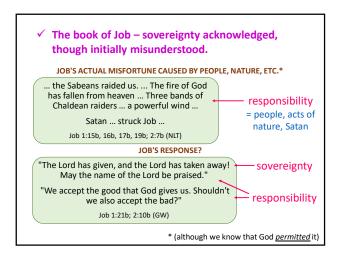


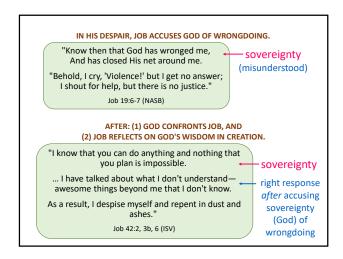
THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE, GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY AND HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY ARE SEEN AS <u>WORKING TOGETHER</u>.

- ✓ As far back as the book of GENESIS.
- ✓ In both desirable and undesirable situations.
- ✓ Whether or not people were aware of it.
- Sometimes seen by people; sometimes hidden.
- ✓ Sometimes even acknowledged by unsaved people!
- → + * * * * * * + →
 Every prophecy and promise from God also implies it.

SOME RANDOM OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLES: √ When Joseph was sold as a slave into Egypt. HIS BROTHERS HATED HIM AND SOLD HIM AS A SLAVE. They hated Joseph ... "Let's sell him to the responsibility Ishmaelites." ... The Ishmaelites took him to Egypt. Genesis 37:4b, 27a, 28b (GW) IT WAS MANY YEARS LATER, WHEN GOD'S SOVEREIGN PURPOSE WAS UNDERSTOOD. AS JOSEPH TOLD HIS BROTHERS ... You planned evil against me; responsibility God planned it for good to bring about the sovereignty present result—the survival of many people. Genesis 50:20 (CSB)

✓ When God used Gideon to destroy the Midianites. SOME OF THE MIDIANITES RECOGNIZED GOD'S PLAN BEFORE IT HAPPENED! [One Midianite interpreting the dream of another...] awareness His friend said, "Your dream can mean only one thingof God has given Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite, victory over all the armies united with Midian!" sovereignty Judges 7:14 (NLT) GOD USED THE MIDIANITE'S PANIC TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSES. [The Israelites] watched as all the Midianites - responsibility rushed around in a panic, shouting as they ran. ... the Lord caused the warriors in the camp to sovereignty fight against each other with their swords. responsibility Judges 7:21b, 22b (NLT)





The King of Babylon admitted God's sovereignty. GOD WARNED: HE WOULD HUMBLE THE KING IF HE GOT PROUD. HE GOT PROUD... HE GOT HUMBLED... HE ACKNOWLEDGED GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY. Then I praised the Most High and honored and glorified him responsibility who lives forever: For his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are counted as nothing, and he does what he wants with the army of heaven and the inhabitants of the earth. sovereignty There is no one who can block his hand or say to him, "What have you done?" responsibility Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt, and glorify the King of the heavens, because all his works are true and his ways are just. He is able to humble those who walk in pride. Daniel 4:34b-35, 37 (CSB) sovereignty

Cyrus, King of Persia, would do God's sovereign will – though he wouldn't realize he was doing it.

WHEN GOD SAID THIS, CYRUS HAD NOT YET BEEN BORN!

I am the Lord, ... who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd and will accomplish all that I please;
he will say of Jerusalem, "Let it be rebuilt," responsibility and of the temple, "Let its foundations be laid."

I will go before you ... I summon you by name ... though you do not acknowledge me. ... I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, ... I saiah 44:24b, 28; 45:2a, 4b, 5b (NIV)

IN THE BOOK OF ACTS
(WHERE WE LEARN ABOUT THE GOOD NEWS)

We frequently see examples of
God's sovereignty
at work alongside
human responsibility.

ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE SOME EXAMPLES



SOVEREIGNTY AND RESPONSIBILITY AT JESUS' CRUCIFIXION; THE PEOPLE WERE STILL GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO REPENT AND BE SAVED. You handed [Jesus] over to be killed, and you responsibility disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. ... I know that you acted in ignorance, as did responsibility your leaders. But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that sovereignty his Christ would suffer. Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your responsibility sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ... Acts 3:13b. 17b-19 (NIV) [A similar focus is seen in: Acts 2:23; 18:9-11.]

WHEN THE JEWS REJECTED THE GOOD NEWS, THE APOSTLES WILLINGLY PREACHED THE GOOD NEWS TO THE GENTILES, KNOWING IN ADVANCE THAT IT WAS GOD'S SOVEREIGN PLAN FOR THEM TO DO SO. Paul and Barnabas boldly replied, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first. Since you reject it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, we are turning to the Gentiles. For this is what the Lord (obeying has commanded us: prophecy!) I have made you a light for the Gentiles sovereignty to bring salvation to the end of the earth." (Old Testament Acts 13:46-47 (CSB) prophecy!) This good news of the kingdom CAN WE DO THE SAME? will be proclaimed in all the world CAN WE PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS as a testimony to all nations, and AND KNOW (BEFORE WE DO IT) THAT then the end will come. WE WILL BE FULFILLING GOD'S **SOVEREIGN PLAN?** Matthew 24:14 (CSB)

THE DISCIPLE'S RESPONSE TO PERSECUTION; THEIR BASIS FOR PRAYER. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the sovereignty mouth of your servant, our father David: [quote O.T. prophecy about Jesus' death] [The leaders and people] did what your power responsibility and will had decided beforehand should happen. sovereignty Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. - (Their Stretch out your hand to heal and perform response to miraculous signs and wonders through the name sovereignty.) of your holy servant Jesus.' Acts 4:24b-25a, 28-30 (NIV)

THE IEWS WHO REJECTED THE GOOD NEWS WERE WARNED THAT THEY WOULD BE FULFILLING A PROPHECY OF JUDGMENT AGAINST THEM. [They left] ... after Paul had quoted this particular passage to them: "How well the Holy Spirit spoke to your ancestors through the prophet Isaiah! The Spirit said: 'Go to these people and say, "You will hear clearly but never understand. You will see clearly but never comprehend. sovereignty These people have become close-minded & and hard of hearing. responsibility They have shut their eyes (working so that their eyes never see. together) Their ears never hear. Their minds never understand. And they never turn to me for healing." ' " Acts 28:25b-27 (GW)

YOUR OPPORTUNITY

Consider these things:

√ The apostles knew that sovereignty and responsibility worked together in all of life – including salvation.

→ DO WE ACKNOWLEDGE IT?

That awareness influenced the way they lived and interacted with both God and people.

→ HOW DOES IT INFLUENCE US?

Credits (1)

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