

Study Guide: God's Sovereignty

Sunday PM-August 2, 2026

This study guide explores the biblical concept of God's sovereignty as presented in the lesson. It examines how God remains in absolute control of all events, the importance of the language used by believers, and the life of Joseph as a primary example of God's divine plan unfolding over time.

Short-Answer Quiz

1. What is the definition of God's sovereignty according to the lesson?
 2. Why is it suggested that Christians should avoid using words like "luck" or "coincidence"?
 3. How long did it take from the time Joseph had his first dreams until he was reunited with his brothers and saw God's plan fit together?
 4. According to Psalm 115:3, what is the extent of God's authority in heaven and on earth?
 5. What did the "coat of many colors" symbolize regarding Joseph's future and his relationship with his father, Jacob?
 6. Why were Joseph's dreams considered "divine revelation" rather than just personal ambition?
 7. In the context of the "pit," why does the lesson state that faithfulness does not exempt believers from hardship?
 8. How does the speaker explain the difference between "giving one's life to God" and being "called into His kingdom"?
 9. In what way did God use Judah's selfish motive for selling Joseph to fulfill a greater purpose?
 10. Based on Isaiah 46:9–10, how does God's knowledge of the future differ from human "guessing"?
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Answer Key

1. The sovereignty of God means that He has supreme authority with no restrictions and that absolutely nothing happens without Him knowing. He does not depend on anything to accomplish His will and is the strength behind everything because He is in total control.
 2. Believers should avoid these words because they suggest that things happen by chance rather than by God's will. Using terms like "luck" or "coincidence" can take away from the truth that God is intimately involved in every detail of life.
 3. Joseph was 17 years old when his journey began, and he stood before Pharaoh at age 30. It took more than two decades, or about 22 years, before he fully understood how God's plan was fitting everything together.
 4. The scripture states that God is in heaven and He does whatever He pleases. This confirms that He is the ultimate authority and is not reacting to history but is directing it according to His own will.
 5. The coat represented the favor Jacob had for Joseph and was an indication that Joseph would receive leadership within the family. This set him apart from his brothers, which eventually stirred the jealousy that God used as part of His plan.
 6. The dreams were not expressions of Joseph's own desires to be powerful, but were messages ordained by God to show His future plans. Even though the brothers saw it as pride, it was actually a demonstration of God's sovereignty.
 7. The pit shows that even when someone is obedient to God, they may still face suffering and trials. God often chooses to advance His purpose through these difficult times rather than removing them entirely.
 8. The speaker notes that saying "I gave my life to God" can put the emphasis on human choice and power. Instead, it should be recognized that God removes the veils from a person's eyes and calls them to Himself through His grace.
 9. Judah wanted to sell Joseph for a profit to avoid killing him, which was a sinful and selfish motive. However, God used that exact action to ensure Joseph arrived in Egypt so he could later save the family during the famine.
 10. God does not guess the future because He is the one who ordained it from the beginning. He declares the end from the beginning and ensures that His counsel stands, doing exactly what pleases Him.
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Essay Questions

1. Discuss how the life of Joseph demonstrates that God can use the sinful actions of people to accomplish His holy purposes.
2. Explain the concept of "pre-assuming your future" as mentioned in the text. Why is it important for a believer to seek the will of God rather than assuming they are in control of their own timeline?
3. The lesson describes God's plan as existing before the foundation of the world. Analyze how this perspective changes the way a person views their own salvation and daily life.
4. Compare and contrast the human reaction to the "coat" and the "dream" in the story of Joseph. How did human pride and jealousy conflict with the divine revelation God was providing?
5. Reflect on the statement: "God's sovereignty does not depend on the purity of human motives." Provide examples from the text that support this claim and explain its significance for modern believers.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Agape Box:** A collection box located in the church foyer for offerings, named after the Greek word for selfless love.
- **Attributes of God:** The inherent characteristics of God, such as His holiness and His sovereignty.
- **Divine Revelation:** Communication from God to humans, such as the dreams given to Joseph to show His future plans.
- **Election:** The theological concept that God's plan for His people was established before the foundation of the world, based on His grace rather than human goodness.
- **Free Will:** The ability of humans to make choices, which exists alongside God's sovereign plan.
- **Holiness:** The state of being holy or set apart; one of the primary attributes of God mentioned in the study.
- **Ordained:** Decreed or ordered by a higher authority; refers to how God has established the events of the future.
- **Predestined:** Determined in advance by God's will, specifically regarding the adoption of believers as sons through Jesus Christ.

- **Sovereignty:** The supreme, absolute power and authority of God over all of creation and history.
- **Submission:** The act of yielding to the authority of God, suggested as a better term than "choosing" God.

Greek Terminology Guide

Word	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition
Agape [^1]	ah-GAH-pay	A Greek word referring to the highest form of love—unconditional, sacrificial, and selfless love, especially the love of God for man.

[^1]: Used in the study guide to describe the "Agape box," which is a place for members to give their tithes and offerings as an act of love and worship.