

# In the hands of the Sovereign Lord

Ezekiel 7:5 “This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

Jeremiah 32:17 “Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.

Daniel 4:17 ‘The decision is announced by messengers, the holy ones declare the verdict, so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of men.’

Daniel 4:34-35 His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: “What have you done?”

Job 1:12 The LORD said to Satan, “**Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.**”

Job 2:9 (amplified) **Then his wife said to him, Do you still hold fast your blameless uprightness? Renounce God and die!**

Job 2:10 (amplified) Shall we accept [only] good at the hand of God and shall we not accept [also] misfortune and what is of a bad nature? In [spite of] all this, Job did not sin with his lips.

Job 23:2 (NIRV) “Even today my problems are more than I can handle. In spite of my groans, God’s hand is heavy on me. I wish I knew where I could find him! I wish I could go to the place where he lives! I would state my case to him. I’d give him all of my arguments. I’d find out what his answers would be. I’d think about what he would say. Would he oppose me with his great power? No. He wouldn’t bring charges against me. I’m an honest person. I could state my case to him.

Supreme and independent authority.

This characteristic of God is foundational to the prophet Ezekiel. Ezekiel uses this sentence 212 times in his book. What are some things Jeremiah states as reasons that God is *sovereign*?

Read the verses selected from Daniel. If this is all you knew of God what would your impression be?

Read the first chapter of Job. Job is a story about a guy getting dumped on for no reason. According to Job 1:12, is God in control of Satan?

Did God give Satan permission to be mean to Job? Does that sound fair?

If that is so, do you think God is actually giving Satan permission to be mean to us today?

In Job 2:9, How does Job’s wife recommend that he acts towards God?

What does Job say to her (Job 2:10)? \_\_\_\_\_

Job’s problems continue for some time. His problems actually get worse. His friends come and try their best to console him and help him make sense out of what is happening. After listening to them Job wants God to do what? \_\_\_\_\_

Job 38:1-3 Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm. He said: “**Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me.**

God shows up and speaks to Job out of a tornado (Job 38:1-3). God says Job is someone without \_\_\_\_\_ God goes on for four chapters asking Job question after question that he could not possibly answer. What is the answer God is giving to Job?

Job 42:1-6 Then Job replied to the LORD? “I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?’ Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. “You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.’ My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.”

From the verses above, how does Job respond?  
The book of Job ends. God is pleased with Job and restores all his stuff. Why do you think God was pleased with Job?



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Romans 9:20-21: But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? “Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, ‘Why did you make me like this?’ “Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?”

Isaiah 55:8-9 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Romans 5:12-13: Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned— for before the law was given, sin was in the world.

Romans 5:17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ

**Romans 5:8**  
**But God demonstrates**  
**his own love for us**  
**in this:**  
**While we were still sinners,**  
**Christ died for us.**

Rev 20:7-8 When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations...

Paul continues a similar theme in Romans 9:20-21. In your own words what is he saying? \_\_\_\_\_

## OK. To summarize so far:

God tells Job, “Dude, I’d explain it to ya but you wouldn’t be able to understand.” (my paraphrase);

Paul, along with Jobs friends say, “Who are we to question God?”

Isaiah 55:8-9 is a good “fall back” explanation to say that there are some things I’m just not going to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Even so, we still want an explanation. Should we just follow God blindly? Where is the “rock” or “anchor point” for my faith?**

Look a Romans 5:12-13. Who’s responsible for letting sin loose in the world? \_\_\_\_\_

Read Romans 5:17. What did God do about it? \_\_\_\_\_

Memorize Romans 5:8. How do I know God loves me? \_\_\_\_\_

In light of Romans 5:8,  
If things are going bad for me does it mean that God doesn’t love me? \_\_\_\_\_

If things are going good for me does that prove God loves me? \_\_\_\_\_

**Contrary to anything that happens to us we can rest assured that God love us.**

**With this belief etched in our hearts we can now place our lives in the hands of the “Sovereign Lord”.**

I do not understand all of “end-times” prophecy. Do I need to? \_\_\_\_\_

Can we “*just believe*” the things we know clearly and trust God to handle what we don’t?

# Lesson Plan: In the hands of the Sovereign Lord

## The Goal:

When things go horribly wrong in a Christian's life, a believer can be left bewildered, wondering why bad things happen to good people. Questions are raised: "Doesn't God Love me?", "Am I being punished?", "Can't God protect me from evil?", "If He can, why didn't He?", "Is God responsible for evil?" Faith can waiver. The goal of this lesson is to firmly lock the issue of sovereignty into your kids faith so

*(Ephesians 6:13) "...that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."*

## Pre-Lesson Activity:

Being a Star Trek fan I played a scene from the movie, "Undiscovered Country" where Captain Kirk is being interrogated by an alien tribunal. The question was, "Are you aware that as a Captain you responsible for the actions of your men?"

## Leading the lesson:

Spend some time in prayer the day before, going over the verses and questions in your mind.

If your group is younger junior-high age encourage them to fill in the blanks with the correct answers and hand in their papers at the end of class. For older kids, especially high-school age, just use the questions as discussion starters.

Have a kid read the first set of verses and then go thru the questions for those verses. Give them time to answer. Listen to what they say and lead the discussion with additional questions of your own to lead them to the correct answers.

Note: When reading, kids will frequently stumble on words they do not know. Explain the meaning of the words so they can fully grasp the concept of the Bible verse. Sometimes you must restate the passage in your own words for them to get it.

The first verses are meant to get the kids thinking: "Who does God think He is?", "People are nothing?" If this was all you knew of God it would make Him seem rather callous to the humans he created. We further explore the thought (playing the devil's advocate) that God is actually responsible for all the bad that happens in the world.

Note: When bad stuff happens, weak-faithed Christians frequently come to this conclusion. They blame God for what happened to them and as Job's wife recommends, give up their faith. It's good to deal with this now and get the right response firmly implanted in their minds.

Job has enough understanding of God to place himself in His hands. Job does whine a bit but repents of that.

Man is actually the one responsible for letting sin loose into the world. God provides a solution for that.

There is a lot of bad stuff that will happen yet. Indeed, (Revelation 20:7-8: When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations...), God, who is in control of Satan, will let him loose again. Ends-times prophecies are hard to understand. Do we have to?

## Summary:

In the end we see that we can not judge God's love for us by what happens to us. God proved He loves us (Romans 5:8). "The adversary" will try to convince us otherwise by making events in our lives seem to contradict God's word. Our "faith anchor" is firmly bound to His provision of grace. We also see that we can place ourselves into the hands of the Sovereign Lord without knowing or understanding all of the answers. We can "just believe" what is in the Bible.

## Take Prayer Requests

Always ask the kids for prayer requests for the next week. Check how things have turned out from the previous week's concerns.