

How does God work His will in the world?

Is everything that happens really directed by God?

Christians claim that God is caring, involved, & in control of history.

But you have got to have a lot of faith to buy that line.



R.C. Sproul



"If there is one single molecule in this universe running around loose, totally free of God's sovereignty, then we have no guarantee that a single promise of God will ever be fulfilled."

Romans 9:21

"Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use, and another for common use?"

Daniel 4:35

"But 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 have You done?'"

DANIEL 4

The King's conviction
vs. 1-3

vs. 4-33

vs. 28-33

The King's conviction
vs. 34-37

³ "How great are His signs and how mighty are His wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and His dominion is from generation to generation."

DANIEL 4

The King's conviction
vs. 1-3

vs. 4-33

vs. 28-33

The King's conviction
vs. 34-37

³⁴ "For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom endures from generation to generation. ³⁵ All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but 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 have You done?'"

Daniel 4

"¹⁶ Let his mind be changed from *that* of a man and let a beast's mind be given to him, and let seven periods of time pass over him.¹⁷ This sentence is by the decree of the *angelic* watchers and the decision is a command of the holy ones, **in order that the living may know that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind**, and bestows it on whom He wishes and sets over it the lowliest of men."

DANIEL 4

The King's conviction
vs. 1-3

The King's Testimony
The King's dream vs. 4-33
The King's discipline vs. 28-33

The King's conviction
vs. 34-37

1. He has a dream of impending doom that troubles him.
2. He asks Daniel to interpret the dream.
 - A great tree covers the earth.
 - It is cut down by an angelic watcher with only a stump left.
 - Its owner goes insane.
 - This is so the world might honor God's sovereignty over the earth.
3. The dream comes true.
 - The king is like a wild beast for 7 years.
 - The king is restored.



Divine Providence is

the active implementation of God's plan for his creation so that His strategic purposes are realized and His Son is ultimately glorified.

Nature	Miracle	Decree
God's normal way of operating	God's orchestration of events	God's preordained outcome
Universally recognized	Contested	Secret

How can human free choice and God's designed plan work together?

Why is this question important?

1. **Coherence** builds a stronger faith than an incoherent mystery.
2. **Pride** is a temptation when we are not aware of God's sovereign power.
3. **Passivity** is a temptation when we have a superficial view of God's sovereignty.



We know we cannot know everything.

1 Corinthians 13:12

"For now we **see in a mirror dimly**, but then face to face, now I know in part, but then **I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.**"

A full explanation of God's sovereignty lies above our human purview.

Job 5:9

"Who does great and unsearchable things, wonders without number."

Job 11:7

"Can you discover the depths of God? Can you discover the limits of the Almighty?"

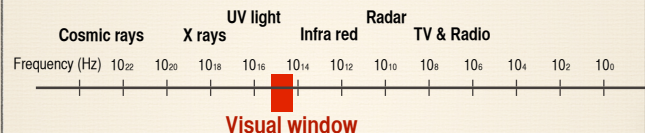
Job 15:8

"Do you hear the secret counsel of God, and limit wisdom to yourself?"

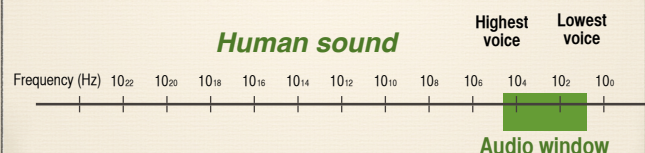


Human senses are limited in what they can experience in the physical world.

Human sight



Human sound



We know that God's creation extends beyond the physical cosmos to include "the ages" or history.

Hebrews 11:3

"By faith we understand that the worlds (**ages**) were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible."

The real question is not -
how can human free choice and
God's designed plan work together?
but rather -

**How big is
our God?**

Illustration #2

**God's sovereignty (power to control)
is a function of His CREATIVE WISDOM.**



Whose Line is it Anyway?

"They create
humor out of
anything."



Johnny (football) Manziel

"He makes plays in
any circumstance."

Illustration #2

**God's sovereignty (power to control)
is a function of His CREATIVE WISDOM.**

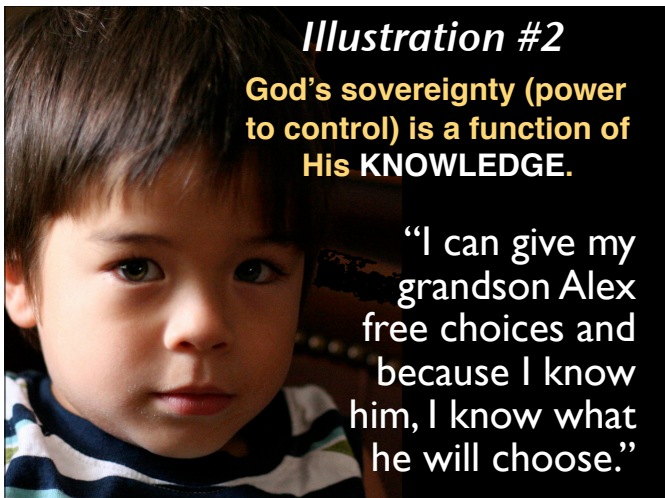


"God
changed
chaos to
cosmos."

Genesis 1

Illustration #2

**God's sovereignty (power
to control) is a function of
His KNOWLEDGE.**



"I can give my
grandson Alex
free choices and
because I know
him, I know what
he will choose."

Illustration #3

**God's sovereignty (power to control)
is not threatened by MY CHOICES.**

Lebron James



Carlsen Magnus

Romans 8

“28 And we know that God causes **all things to work together** for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose”

How can human free choice and God's designed plan work together?

It can't be that difficult for a God who is infinitely wise, powerful, and creative.

Is our God too small?

**Let God be God
Focus on your role**

Daniel 4

“ 37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and **He is able to humble those who walk in pride.**”

Two concerns

Pride

We are responsible for too much

When we think we are in control, it goes to our head.

Passivity

We are responsible for too little

When we think that what we do does not matter, we go to sleep.

Two virtues

Trust

We have a part but it is not - writer, director, or producer.

We tend to whine or worry about God's providence.

Obey

We must know our role and play it well.

We tend to miss our cue, forget our lines, or want another role.

Romans 11:33

“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!”

