

f. The sovereignty of God

Charles Hodge, in his *Systematic Theology* (Washington: Scribner, 1871), Volume One, pp. 440-441, states:

Sovereignty is not a property of the divine nature, but a prerogative arising out of the perfections of the Supreme Being. If God be a Spirit, and therefore a person, infinite, eternal, and immutable in his being and perfections, the Creator and Preserver of the universe, He is of right its absolute sovereign. Infinite wisdom, goodness, and power, with the right of possession, which belongs to God in all his creatures, are the immutable foundation of his dominion. "Our God is in the heavens; He hath done whatsoever He pleased." (Ps. 115:3) "All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and He doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" (Dan. 4:35) "All that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine." (I Chron. 29:11) "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." (Ps. 29:1) "Thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all." (I Chron. 29:11) "Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine." (Ez. 18:4) "Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioned it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?" (Is. 45:9) "Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own?" (Matt. 20:15) He "worketh all things after the counsel of his own will." (Eph. 1:11) "Of Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things: to whom be glory forever. Amen." (Rom. 11:36)

From these and similar passages of Scripture it is plain, (1) That the sovereignty of God is universal. It extends over all his creatures from the highest to the lowest. (2) That it is absolute. There is no limit to be placed to his authority. He doeth his pleasure in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. (3) It is immutable. It can neither be ignored nor rejected. It binds all creatures, as inexorably as physical laws bind the material universe.

This sovereignty is exercised, (1) In establishing the laws, physical and moral, by which all creatures are to be governed. (2) In determining the nature and powers of the different orders of created beings, and in assigning each its appropriate sphere. (3) In appointing to each individual his position and lot. It is the Lord who fixes the bounds of our habitation.... (4) God is no less sovereign in the distribution of his favours. He does what He wills with his own. He gives to some riches, to others, honour; to others, health; while others are poor, unknown, or the victim of disease....