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GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY**Psalm 139****Definition :** Sovereign

- supreme power
- absolute authority
- complete control

In short : It is the right of God to do as He wishes.**Psalm 139**¹³ For you created my inmost being;**you knit me together in my mother's womb.**¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;**your works are wonderful,**I know that full well.**¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you**when I was made in the secret place.**When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,**¹⁶ your eyes saw my unformed body.**All the days ordained for me**were written in your book**before one of them came to be.***Pray****Review :****I. GOD KNOWS****II. GOD IS HERE.****III. GOD IS IN CONTROL.****QUICK REVIEW****Why?****THE LORD CREATED WHO WE ARE :**

- He created our inner being

¹³ For you created my inmost being;

He is in control of how we react to things. But we also have freewill. How? I don't know.

Etymology : "kilyah" desires, affections and etc.

- He created our outer being.

you knit me (cakak – weave) together in my mother's womb.

Story : There was one person who went to a psychiatrist and said, “I think I’m suffering from inferiority complex.” So the psychiatrists asked a lot of questions and did a battery of tests and said to the man to come back after a few days after the analysis. So the man went back after a few days and asked, “Doc, did you find the problem behind my inferiority complex?” The psychiatrist answered, “There’s no problem.” And quickly added, “You are really inferior.”
Contrary to this, no one should feel inferior about himself.

We were specially, uniquely and marvelously created by God.

¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully (yare – awe and respect) and wonderfully (palah-distinctly) made;

*your works are wonderful (pala – marvelous,),
 I know that full well.*

All of us here were made with awe and respect and we are different from each other and all of us were marvellously made.

CONTINUE :

Now we are talking about God’s sovereignty (full control) God’s sovereignty is always connected with his Omnipotence – which means He is all powerful.

NOW : Look at the power of God.

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you

Etymology : frame; substance “otsem” bone; power

In short : God knows what we’re going to be; what we’re going to look like even before we were born. What ticks us off and etc... he already knows about it. That’s how sovereign He is.

Note : 3D ultrasound can show the shape a boy or a girl. But he’ll never really what it looks like until it’s out of the womb. Mica’s ultrasound was kind of shocking to us because of her nose.

Note : One of the images that stuck in my mind is when my children was born. I saw each one of them right after they came out of the womb. There’s a different kind of feeling...it’s a special kind of feeling. That’s how God looks at us.

when I was made in the secret place.

Question : Where is the secret place?

*When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,
¹⁶ your eyes saw my unformed body.*

Etymology : depths; lowest “tachtiy” used also a place of nothingness; no life...

Note : Some smart-aleck would ask, then where is these depths of the earth...that's why it's called a secret and we'll have to go back again like last week to Deuteronomy 29:29... this is like the question also of how is there sovereignty of God and free will?

Deuteronomy 29: 29 The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.

Important Thing To Remember : You were made from nothing to something...
Unformed body - from nobody to somebody!!!

BUT YOU KNOW WHAT THE GREATEST MIRACLE IS ?

When you became a child of God from a dead person.

Ephesians 2: 1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

This means, we did not even have the capacity to know who God is.

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved.

But you know what is an even greater miracle than that?

YOU WERE MADE A CHILD OF GOD ONCE YOU HAVE BELIEVED THIS.

John 1: 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Your mother gave birth to you but you were **BORN AGAIN** when you believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for you.

Let me point it out to you again the parallel truth :

it is by grace you have been saved
to those who believe in His name

I'LL SHOW THIS TO YOU AGAIN LATER BECAUSE SOVEREIGNTY IS HIGHLIGHTED IN THIS NEXT PASSAGE.

THE LORD CREATED WHAT WE WILL BE.

16 your eyes saw my unformed body.
All the days ordained for me
were written in your book
before one of them came to be.

Before anything else : In this maverick world of ours, this truth about God's sovereignty is hard to accept. In reality, there is nothing that we control except our reactions.

Again : As discussed before, if God has already written what's going to happen in our lives, what about our free will? Do we still have free will? YES!

Again : You may ask, "How does that work pastor?" Again, I don't know. No one knows! **These are what we can call "parallel principles".**

So how do we react to this parallel truth regarding freewill and sovereignty?

Illustration : During his days as guest lecturer at Calvin Seminary, R.B.Kuiper once used the following illustration of God's sovereignty and human responsibility:

I liken them to two ropes going through two holes in the ceiling and over a pulley above. If I wish to support myself by them, I must cling to them both. If I cling only to one and not the other, I go down. I read the many teachings of the Bible regarding God's election, predestination, his chosen, and so on. I read also the many teachings regarding 'whosoever will may come' and urging people to exercise their responsibility as human beings. These seeming contradictions cannot be reconciled by the puny human mind. With childlike faith, I cling to both ropes, fully confident that in eternity I will see that both strands of truth are, after all, of one piece.

In short : Since we know about this parallel truth, it doesn't mean we will stop planning for our future because God is sovereign. No, we can still plan for our future but we have to remember God is totally in control, sovereign.

Application : What comfort that God is in control! We can give all the best that we can (freewill) because we know He is in control whatever the result is (sovereign). In the end, we give Him glory for whatever happens.

Today : We're going to talk about God's ordaining the days of our lives.

a.) The Lord created what has happened and what is happening in our lives.

¹⁶ your eyes saw my unformed body.

All the days ordained for me

Context : *¹⁶ your eyes saw my unformed body.*

Jeremiah 1: ⁴ Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying:

⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;

Before you were born I sanctified you;

I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

Note : Even before we were born, God has separated us for a certain purpose (sanctified; qadash) in life.

Example : Jerry before you were born I sanctified you, I ordained you a husband to Chicay or a father to three children or a pastor to DCF.

Activity : _____, before you were born I sanctified you, I ordained you a _____ to _____.

In short : God has called you to be a father or a mother or a wife or a child or preacher or a worship leader or an employee then fulfill that role with excellence.

TAKU ETSU : We were looking for a Japanese word that the Japanese use in their manufacturing whether electronics or cars...I think the word is taku etsu..which means doing your best in a task or even in relationships.

Listen carefully : Whatever has happened in your past, God created it so He can use it for who you are today.

All the days ordained for me

Etymology : ordained; KJV fashioned “yatsar” meaning to form. It’s like a potter forming a clay
If I may paraphrase by God’s grace: “ALL THE DAYS WERE FORMED FOR ME.”

Isaiah 64: ⁸ Yet, O LORD, you are our Father.

*We are the clay, you are the potter;
 we are all the work of your hand.*

Romans 9: ²⁰But 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?' ²¹Does 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?

Story : There was a couple who went to England for their anniversary, while they were there they went inside a small shop and there they found a tea cup. It was a beautiful and exquisite tea cup. But while they were looking at it, the tea cup spoke and said, “I wasn’t a tea cup before. I was just a lump of red clay. Then one day, my master took me and a then pounded me over and over again. I shouted, “Stop, I don’t like this”. But my master said, “not yet” and then he put me on a spinning wheel and suddenly I was spun round and round, so I shouted again, “Stop, I’m getting so dizzy.” The master quietly said, “Not yet.”

Then he spun me again and bent me and poked at me. After the spin, I thought it was all over, then he suddenly placed me inside a very hot oven and then he shut the door. It was dark and so hot inside, that I shouted, “Get me out of here.” But nobody seemed to hear me. After what seemed to be a long wait, the door suddenly opened and then he let me cool down. And I said, “Ah, this is the life...I felt much better.” But after I cooled down, he got me and painted me all over. The fumes were horrible. I pleaded “Stop. Please stop.” But it seemed he can’t hear me. And then he suddenly placed me inside the oven again and this time the heat was much hotter.

Twice as hot. I knew I was going to suffocate. I pleaded. I screamed. But then the door opened and then he let me cool down again.

Afterwards he picked me up, and I thought, "Now, what is he going to do?" He handed me a mirror and said, "Look at yourself." And I was astounded and said to him, "That's not me...but I'm so beautiful"

Then quietly he spoke: "I want you to remember, then," he said, "I know it hurt to be rolled and pounded and patted, but had I just left you alone, you'd have dried up. I know it made you dizzy to spin around on the wheel, but if I had stopped, you would have crumbled.

"I know it hurt and it was hot and disagreeable in the oven, but if I hadn't put you there, you would have cracked. I know the fumes were bad when I brushed and painted you all over, but if I hadn't done that, you never would have hardened. You would not have had any color in your life.

"And if I hadn't put you back in that second oven, you wouldn't have survived for long because the hardness would not have held. Now you are a finished product. Now you are what I had in mind when I first began with you.

This is the reason why God has commanded us to rejoice in the midst of suffering :

James 1: ²Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Quote : The only way out of suffering is through it. – John McArthur

1 Peter 1: ⁶In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Remember : It is only through suffering where we can prove that we have faith in God.

1 Peter 4: ¹²Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

Special Note :

1 Peter 4: ¹⁵If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

In short : You have to make sure the reason that your suffering is not because of your own doing. But if your suffering has been allowed by God then praise Him.

b.) The Lord created what's going to happen in our lives

were written in your book

before one of them came to be.

Etymology : written “kathab” – meaning written or recorded

What does “recorded” mean? It means you jot something about a thing that has happened already.

Your future has already been set or recorded by the Lord.

Again, see this? You only can record what's happening right now... but God has already recorded what's happening right now before it happened.

Again : Let me just reiterate to some people, this can be a cause of struggle but to those who accept God's sovereignty, this now can be a source of comfort.

Quote : There is no attribute of God more comforting to His children than the doctrine of Divine Sovereignty. Under the most adverse circumstances, in the most severe troubles, they believe that Sovereignty hath ordained their afflictions, that Sovereignty overrules them, and that Sovereignty will sanctify them all. – Charles Spurgeon.

Why? Because God is a good and holy God and a wise God and He will never do anything that is not good or evil. His intentions are always pure.

But : Let me reiterate again. It doesn't mean we just stand and just wait for food or just live life non-chalantly. We have a term in Filipino, “bahala na”. It is not “bahala na”. So you can still plan

*Proverbs 16: ³³ Make your motions and cast your votes,
but God has the final say. (The Message)*

Look at this one :

*Proverbs 19: 21 Many are the plans in a man's heart,
but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.*

Question : Does it say there don't make plans? Don't over-read the Bible. Because look at what Proverbs say :

*Proverbs 16: ³ Commit to the LORD whatever you do,
and your plans will succeed.*

*⁹ In his heart a man plans his course,
but the LORD determines his steps.*

Note : We hear some people say, “Ito na siguro ang kapalaran ko or ito na siguro ang gusto sa akin ng Dios” This is a defeatist attitude which doesn’t honor God.

My question will be, “How did you know?” “Have you seen what God has recorded in his book?”

*were written in your book
before one of them came to be.*

AND TO ME, THIS IS THE GREATEST ADVENTURE OF ALL WHO FOLLOW CHRIST. FINDING OUT WHAT GOD’S PLAN IS IN THEIR LIVES.

AND YOU KNOW WHY I’M EXCITED ABOUT GOD’S PLAN?

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

BUT Remember : You still have freewill.

When is freewill used? TODAY. You can never use freewill yesterday because it has been done. You still cannot use freewill tomorrow because it hasn’t happened yet. You can only use freewill right at this very moment.

That’s why the Bible says :

Matthew 6: ³⁴ “So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

The question is : How are you using your freewill today? Are you making the right decisions? Are you making decisions with the right motives? Are you doing it out love? Are you doing it for God’s glory?

Here’s the thing : Whatever you decide today will affect your future and that future has already been set by God.

How does it work? I don’t know.

QUOTE IN THE DANGER OF BEING SIMPLISTIC. HERE’S THE POINT

QUOTE : God is sovereign. TRUST HIM. You have freewill. OBEY HIM.

The most important thing:

Don’t be worried about your future here, because eventually you will pass away and the question is where are you going?

The Bible is clear that there are only two places we will go...Heaven or Hell?

Jesus said,

"For God so loved the world that He gave His Only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."

Have you really trusted the Lord Jesus Christ? Remember, when is the time you can use your freewill? Only right now, today...

GOD IN HIS SOVEREIGNTY, HAS ORDAINED EVEN BEFORE YOU WERE BORN TO HEAR THIS MESSAGE, NOW IN YOUR FREEWILL, YOU NEED TO BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO THE FATHER.

Hebrews 3: 15 As has just been said:

*"Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts
as you did in the rebellion."*

S.G.D.