

Lessons From Route 66: Our Sovereign God
2024-06-09

Ephesians 1:11

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,

All scripture is relevant for us today. 2 Timothy 3:14-17

- The Old Testament **reflects practically** what **New Testaments** presents in **principle**.
 - **God is sovereign in accomplishing all His purposes in the world and in your life.**

The Lord **governs ALL** events, **great and small** to **fulfil His perfect and beautiful plan**.

- **No world leader or power can resist the will of God, nor interfere with His plan.** Jeremiah 32:17; 1 Timothy 6:15-16; Ephesians 1:11; Proverbs 21:1, Romans 9:19b
 - **Good examples of world powers that could not interfere: Nebuchadnezzar, Pharaoh, Roman empire, elect.**
 - His **grace is irresistible** towards **lost** family and friends.
- **God is sovereign in the miraculous** but is also sovereign **over the ordinary and mundane**.
 - **Seemingly insignificant, “little” things, or “coincidences”** are gracefully, and **purposefully orchestrated** events.
 - Examples: **Ruth, Jonah, testimonies.** Ruth 2:3, Proverbs 16:33, Jonah 4:6,
 - **His will is done in spite of your weakness, imperfection, and sin.**

The Bible is a **record** of the Lord **sovereignly liberating** men from their **sin** and their **messes**.

- **The Bible testifies** to our **omnipotent** God’s **patience** and **faithfulness in continually redeeming** His people from their **messes, sin, and bondage**.
 - Examples: **Israel** in bondage in **Egypt, Joseph** in prison, **demoniac**.
- His **grace** and **mercy** arrive at **exactly the right time** and in the **best way!**
 - His **“best way”** many times **includes suffering and trials.** Isaiah 55:8-9, Genesis 50:20, Romans 8:28, Proverbs 14:12

Neither Old Testament nor New Testament contains **examples** or **promises** believers **escape affliction....** it’s in fact the **opposite**.

- **Suffering** in hard times is the most **common thread** throughout **scripture.** 1 Peter 2:19-23
 - Suffering and trials are **not surprising but purposeful**.
 - **Grow dependence** upon God, **Jesus-likeness,** and **endurance.**

Both then and now God's people **struggle** to believe the **Lord is sovereign** and **in control** of **ALL**.

- **Again and again**, God's people **get into trouble** and sin **because they believe** and **act** as though they **can handle** difficult situations **better than God**.
 - **We don't trust Him** to come through **when** and in the **way we think He should**.

When contentment in God **decreases** God's people **try find** a **solution** or **satisfaction** in something **other than God**, which leads to idolatry, immorality, money, materialism. *Ecclesiastes 2:10-11*

- **Destruction begins** with "**little**" **compromises** and **disobedience**.
 - Examples: **Solomon inter-married**, **Saul doesn't destroy all**.
 - **Compromise** with evil leads to doing the **unthinkable**: idolatry, immorality.
 - **Holiness** does **not** have an **on** or **off switch**. Jude 21, James 4:3.
- **You can't make peace** with the **flesh**, because the **flesh** will **never make peace with you**.
 - **If you do not deal** with "**little**" **sin** then **gradually, imperceptibly**, you will sink into **moral** and **spiritual collapse** that **affects others**. Examples of this include **Jonah** and **David**.

Find contentment with your **present** situation **by trusting** that **God is sovereign** over all things **great** and **small** in the **world** and in **your life**. *Job 13:15a, 1 Timothy 6:6, Philipians 4:11-13, 19, Ecclesiastes 12:13,*

- **The fight of faith** is the fight to **keep** your heart **content in Jesus Christ**.
 - **He is for YOU** and His **plan** is **perfect in your life**, even when **circumstances** are **not**.