

INTERRUPTION

I have often been asked about the sovereignty of God. "Pastor, why does God sometimes cut across everything that I am doing to do the unexpected." The answer is simply, "God is God!" I love it when God interrupts my life to inject new hope and bring new blessings. He is MY God and He is sovereign, and that kind of interruption I welcome. The word sovereign means to have absolute and independent authority over something or someone. Therefore, whenever God chooses to interrupt something or someone He is exercising His absolute and independent rule and control over that which He created, and which is under His complete control. The Lord is the "Almighty God"! This is a great source of comfort to us because God always has our interests at heart when exercising His sovereignty. ***"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."*** (Jeremiah 29:11).

During King Philip's War in 1675, Red Indians seized a woman called Mrs Mary Rowlandson from her home in Lancaster. Before being ransomed (for more than 11 weeks), Mary and her children were forced to accompany the Indians as they travelled through the wilderness to carry out other raids and to elude the English militia. In 1682, six years after her ordeal, "The Sovereignty and Goodness of God" was published (being a narrative of her captivity and restoration). This text strongly influenced future American writers and went through four printings to become the first American "bestseller." Throughout her horrendous ordeal Mary Rowlandson found consolation in God's word. Even when she did not know where her children were (or even whether they were alive), she states, "And my poor girl, I knew not where she was, not whether she was sick, or well, or alive, or dead. I repaired under these thoughts to my Bible (my great comfort in that time) and that scripture came to my hand, ***'Cast thy burden on the Lord, and He shall sustain thee'*** (Psalm 55:22)." The point I am trying to make is this... When we are experiencing hardships, or even tragedy, God is nevertheless on the throne, and His sovereignty and goodness are still in tact! So be rest-assured, for a time will surely come when He intervenes and disrupts your present state of affairs to bring deliverance and restoration.

Remember this, all things are under God's rule and control, and nothing happens without His direction or permission. Ephesians 1:11 tells us that God works all things according to the counsel of His own will (not just some things). Nothing takes God by surprise! His purposes are all-inclusive and never foiled (Isaiah 46:11). The sovereignty of God is not merely that God has the power and right to govern all things, but that He actually does so - always and without exception. In other words, God 'practices' His sovereignty. If you are going through hardships be encouraged! God is about to **interrupt** your circumstances and bring about the victory you have been waiting for.

*Is your place a small place? Tend it with care; He set you there.
Is your place a large place? Guard it with care! He set you there.
Whatever your place, it is not yours alone, but His who set you there.
~ John Oxenham*