

Sunday, April 29, 2007

## Single Minded 2007

### *Singleness & the Sovereignty of God*

**INTRO** .... How Did I Get 'Here'?

*How Do You Answer the Questions Concerning "Where You Are" in Life?*

- ... Are you "ACCIDENTALLY" Single?
- ... Are you "MISTAKENLY" Single?
- ... Are you "PUNITIVELY" Single?
- ... Are you "FRIGHTENINGLY" Single?
- ... Are You "SOVEREIGNLY" Single?

THE GOAL OF THIS MESSAGE: *To View the Current Status of Our Lives Through the Lense of a Sovereign Design & Purpose, that Operates at a Level that Must be Searched Out, and to Not Merely be Casually Comforted by quoting Romans 8:28*

## THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD IN THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

OVERVIEW of Joseph's Story ... Gen 37-50:

- Gen 37:2-11 ... Joseph in his Father's House
- Gen 37 .... Joseph Betrayed & Sold into Slavery .... He's 17 yrs Old
- Gen 39:2-4 .... Joseph Serves Potiphar .... Joseph Falsely Accused & Jailed
- Gen 40:14-15, 23 .... Remember me, so I can get out of this cell
- Gen 41 .... Joseph turns 30.... Interprets Pharaoh's Dream .... & Becomes CEO of Egypt
- Gen 42-44 .... Famine Hits .... Joseph's Brothers come to Egypt for Food
  
- Gen 45:1-8 .... The Sovereign Purpose of God Revealed

*Once We Understand that God IS at Work, We're Better Able to Appreciate the Various (and Common) Means that He Has Chosen*

- **Joseph's Dysfunctional Household**
- **A CARAVAN on It's Way to EGYPT**
- **The Betrayal & Lies of People He Sought to Serve**

## HOW DID YOU GET WHERE YOU ARE?

1. **YOU?** .... you've made choices that have placed you where you are; a mix of good and bad decisions of varying degrees of importance and influence over your life; your temperament or personality or fears  
— The Symptoms of This Being the Determiner: Anger .... Frustration ..... Self-Pity .... Self-hatred .... Living in the Past

**DISCLAIMER:** *Sovereignty does Not Negate Human Responsibility & Consequences— but Neither Does Human Irresponsibility & Consequences Negate God's Sovereignty*

### **Jn 9:1-3**

2. **OTHERS?** ... Failing Family or Friends? ..... Back-stabbers/Betrayers .... Politicians  
— The Symptoms of This Being the Determiner: Anger .... Bitterness .... Blaming Others .... Self-Justification .....

### **Acts 4:26-28**

NOTE: God's Sovereign Plan makes use of the Sinful Contributions & Motives of Men .... it's not dependent on everyone being godly or even believing in god!!

3. **The DEVIL?** ....  
— The Symptoms of This Being the Determiner: Fear ... Superstition ....

### **Job 1:6-12**

4. **GOD?**

### **Dan 4:34-35**

5. **ALL OF THE ABOVE?**

6. **FATE?** .... some impersonal force that sets the course for history and human experience  
— The Symptoms of This Being the Determiner: Fatalism .... Despondency

## RESPONDING TO SOVEREIGN SINGLENES (or Circumstances)

**Joseph** .... Gen 50:15-21

**Sovereignty & the Little Guy** .... That's all fine & well for the Kingdom Superstars (Joseph, Job, Jesus, etc.) — But what about the COMMON MAN?

Matt 10:28-31 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

**“ God does not exercise his sovereignty in only a broad way, leaving the smaller details of our lives to “chance” or “luck”. That is precisely Jesus’ point. God our Father, who exercises his sovereignty in such minute detail as to control the destiny of a little bird, will certainly exercise his sovereignty to control even the most insignificant details of our lives.” Jerry Bridges, “Still Sovereign”, p. 298**

***Singleness, like marriage or trial or victory or suffering or comfort or plenty or meagerness are the many plateaus that God has ordained for us to see his manifold glory. Let us despise none of them, but rather see them as a means for God's glory to be known in its fulness — if we will but look through the lense of a Sovereign God.***

**“ Of course a belief in the absolute sovereignty of God is of little comfort if we do not also believe just as strongly in the infinite love and unfathomable wisdom of God. But it is also of little comfort to believe in the love of God if we do not believe in his sovereignty. Paul assures us that nothing can separate us from the love of God (Rom 8:35-39). Yet, if God is not in control of every circumstance of our lives, then we can effectively be separated from his love. If my son is drowning, my love to him is of little value if I cannot swim. But God can swim, so to speak. .... Therefore divine sovereignty ought to make a difference in our lives. It ought to give us courage when we encounter adversity of any sort. It ought to help us to obey Jesus command, “don’t be afraid,” and even Paul’s command to “give thanks in all circumstances” (1Thes 5:18). ... Above all, it will give us the confidence that no plan of God’s can be thwarted by either human actions or acts of nature and that, therefore, God is indeed working out all thing in conformity with the purpose of his will— for his glory and the good of his people.” Jerry Bridges, “Still Sovereign”, p. 306**

***May you embrace your purposeful and strategic season of singleness with anticipation and intentionality... the God who loves you is Sovereign!***