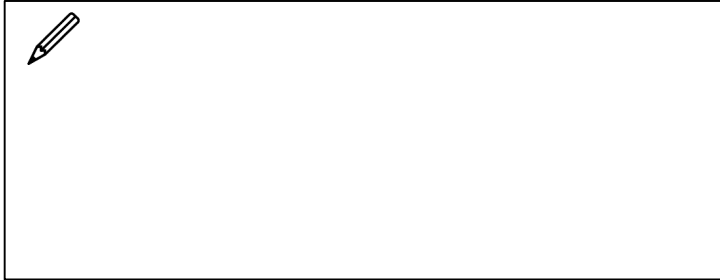

SOVEREIGNTY

Talk 1: The Lord is King

“God never says ‘oops’.”
Colin Buchanan

INTRODUCTION: THE LORD IS KING



- **Will**

Matt 6:9-10 Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done.”

“There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body, parts, or passions; of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness; the Maker, and Preserver of all things both visible and invisible.” The 39 Articles of Religion.

- **Worship**

Rev. 4:11 “You are worthy, our Lord and God,
 to receive glory and honour and power,
 for you created all things,
 and by your will they were created
 and have their being.”

Rev. 5:13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing:
 “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
 be praise and honour and glory and power,
 for ever and ever!”

- **Wisdom**

Problems

1. Suffering and evil

2. Human free will and responsibility

What kind of listener?

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The real problem

Rom. 1:21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles...

Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts...8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. 9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 66:1 "This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word

Ecclesiastes 5:1 Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong. 2 Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few.

As the godly consideration of Predestination, and our Election in Christ, is full of sweet, pleasant, and unspeakable comfort to godly persons, and such as feel in themselves the working of the Spirit of Christ, mortifying the works of the flesh, and their earthly members, and drawing up their mind to high and heavenly things, as well because it doth greatly establish and confirm their faith of eternal Salvation to be enjoyed through Christ as because it doth fervently kindle their love towards God. The 39 Articles of Religion.

A. KNOWING GOD THE KING

1. King of Creation

Gen. 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Psalm 102: 25 In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.
26 They will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment.
Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded

Psalm 96:4-5 For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
he is to be feared above all gods.
For all the gods of the nations are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.

Amos 4:13 He who forms the mountains,
creates the wind,
and reveals his thoughts to man,
he who turns dawn to darkness,
and treads the high places of the earth—
the Lord God Almighty is his name.

Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

2. King of Salvation

Exodus 3

Ex 6:7 I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.

Ex 14:18 The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen.”

Ex 29:46 They will know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of Egypt so that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God.

3. King of the Kingdom

Exodus 19:3-6

Daniel 2

Daniel 6-7

Rom. 10:9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Eph. 1:11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will...

B. GOD'S RULE OVER ALL

1. Creation

Gen 1:3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Hebrews 1:3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

Psalm 98:7 Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. 8 Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy;

Absolute authority

Isaiah 45:9-12

Sole authority

Matthew 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

2. Nature

Job 39:19 “Do you give the horse his strength or clothe his neck with a flowing mane?... 26 “Does the hawk take flight by your wisdom and spread his wings toward the south?

Psa 104:10 He makes springs pour water into the ravines; it flows between the mountains.

11 They give water to all the beasts of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

12 The birds of the air nest by the waters; they sing among the branches.

13 He waters the mountains from his upper chambers; the earth is satisfied by the fruit of his work.

14 He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate— bringing forth food from the earth:

Matthew 6:26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them....28 See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labour or spin....30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field...

Matthew 10:29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. 30 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

3. History

Extensive

Isaiah 14:14 “Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will stand. 25 I will crush the Assyrian in my land; on my mountains I will trample him down. His yoke will be taken from my people, and his burden removed from their shoulders.” 26 This is the plan determined for the whole world; this is the hand stretched out over all nations. 27 For the LORD Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?

Acts 17:26 From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.

Intensive

Proverbs 16:33 The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

Proverbs 26:31 The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the LORD.

Jonah 1:7 Then the sailors said to each other, “Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.” They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.

“One can foresee a revolution or war, but it's impossible to foresee the consequences of an Autumn shooting trip of wild ducks.” E.H. Carr, What is History?

4. Human decisions

Prov. 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases.

Ezra 1: 1 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfil the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and to put it in writing:

Dan 1:9 Now God had caused the official to show favour and sympathy to Daniel,

John 19:24 "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, "They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." So this is what the soldiers did.

John 13:18 "I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfil the scripture: 'He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me.'

5. Life and death

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.

Psalm 37: 23 If the LORD delights in a man's way,
he makes his steps firm;
24 though he stumble, he will not fall,
for the LORD upholds him with his hand.

1 Sam 1: 6 The LORD brings death and makes alive;
he brings down to the grave and raises up.

Deut. 32:39 See now that I myself am He!
There is no god besides me.
I put to death and I bring to life,
I have wounded and I will heal,
and no one can deliver out of my hand.

6. Evil and suffering

Deut. 2:30 But Sihon king of Heshbon refused to let us pass through. For the LORD your God had made his spirit stubborn and his heart obstinate in order to give him into your hands, as he has now done.

1 Samuel 2:25 If a man sins against another man, God may mediate for him; but if a man sins against the LORD, who will intercede for him?" His sons, however, did not listen to their father's rebuke, for it was the LORD's will to put them to death

2 Chr. 25:20 Amaziah, however, would not listen, for God so worked that he might hand them over to [Jehoash], because they sought the gods of Edom.

Amos 3:6 When a trumpet sounds in a city, do not the people tremble? When disaster comes to a city, has not the LORD caused it?

Lam. 3:38 Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that both calamities and good things come?

Judg. 9:23 God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the citizens of Shechem, who acted treacherously against Abimelech.

2 Thess 2:11 For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie 12 and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

Isaiah 45:7 I form the light and create darkness,
 I bring prosperity and create disaster;
 I, the LORD, do all these things.

7. Salvation

John 6

Eph 1:11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

8. Everything

The freedom of God

C. IMPLICATIONS

1. Confidence

2. Clarity

3. Dependence

Psalm 90:3 You turn men back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, O sons of men."

Psalm 104: 21 The lions roar for their prey and seek their food from God.
22 The sun rises, and they steal away; they return and lie down in their dens.
23 Then man goes out to his work, to his labour until evening.
Listen to the way James rebukes those who think they can plan their lives without reference to God.

James 4:13 Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." 14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. 15 Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." 16 As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil.

4. Comfort

"The infinite power and infinite mind of God, to which the marvels of creation bear witness, mean that he is able to give full attention, care and protection to every person throughout the world with the same intensity and concern that he would give if he were related to a single individual only. The infinity of God is not overwhelmed by numbers, nor stupefied by detail. God is able to comprehend, and provide for at the same time, the needs of the whole of his creation. Our heavenly Father gives each of us his undivided attention and his full friendship as though we were his only friend." David Broughton-Knox, The Everlasting God

5. Praise

Romans 11:33-36 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!
“Who has known the mind of the Lord?
Or who has been his counsellor?”
“Who has ever given to God,
that God should repay him?”
For from him and through him and to him are all things.
To him be the glory forever! Amen.

RESPONSE

Something I've been reminded of:

Something new I've learned:

Something I need to do or change as a result: