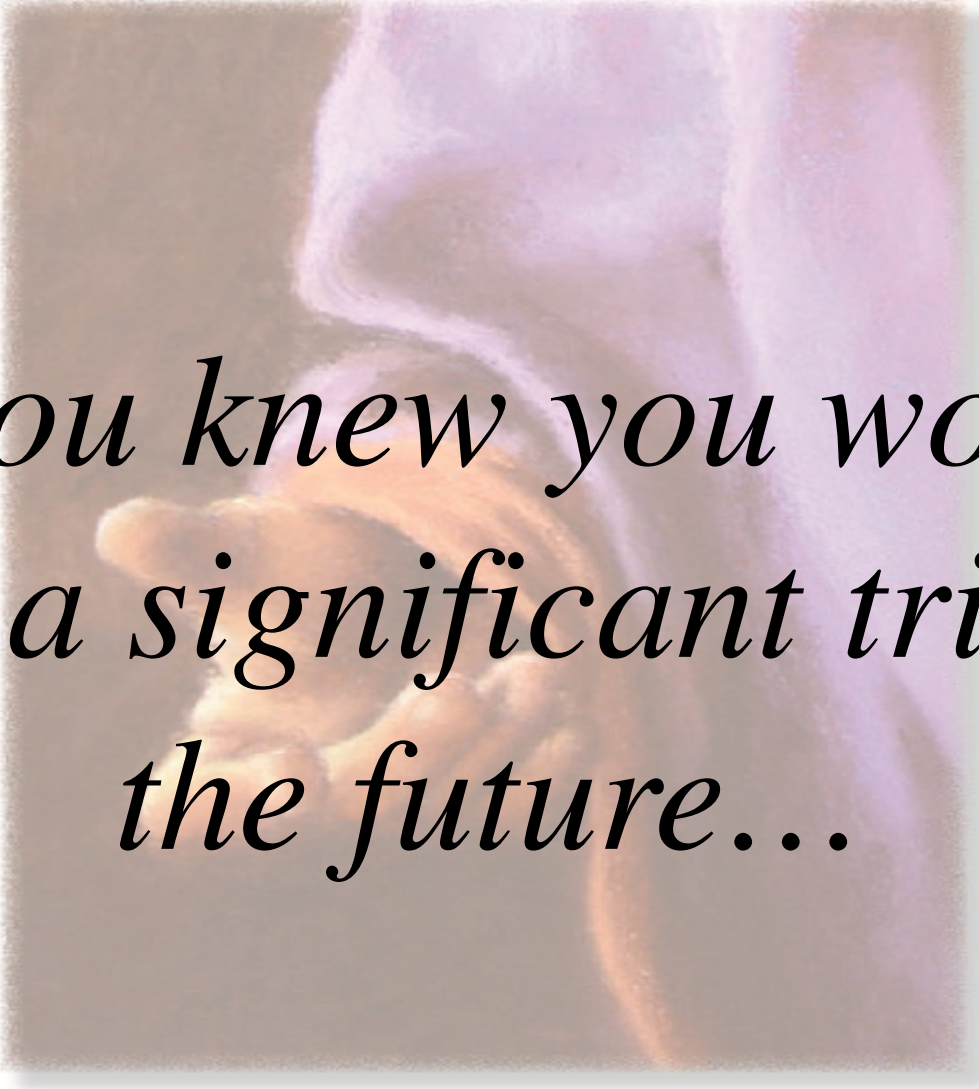


*Sovereignty, Suffering,*  
**AND SYMPATHY**  
*A Thematic Study in Job*

**SOVEREIGNTY BEHIND THE SCENES**



*If you knew you would  
face a significant trial in  
the future...*

IN HIS HAND

**SUFFERING** **SOVEREIGNTY** **SYMPATHY**

"In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind."  
Job 12:10

# JOB'S CHARACTER

Narrator's description of Job (1:1)

Job's blessings (1:2-3)

Job's love (1:5)

God's description of Job (1:8, 2:3)



IN HIS HAND  
*SUFFERING* *SOVEREIGNTY* *SYMPATHY*  
"In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind."  
Job 12:10

# KEY TERMS: DECREES

**WSC Q. 7.** What are the decrees of God?

**A.** The decrees of God are, his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for his own glory, he hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.

IN HIS HAND  
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# KEY TERMS: DECREE/PLAN

“The decree of God is the inward act of the divine will, by which, from eternity, he has freely and surely specified the things that were to be made in time. The decree includes their causes, operations, circumstances, and the manner in which they are bound to be made and to exist, for the demonstration of his glory ... His eternal plan determines all events that occur in time.”

(Gamble, *Whole Counsel of God*, 1:644-645)

SUFFERING

IN HIS HAND  
SOVEREIGNTY

*"In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind."*

Job 12:10

SYMPATHY

# KEY TERMS: DECREE/PLAN

“God from all eternity did by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass;” (WCF 3.1a)

“We reject any teaching which asserts that God has not planned all that comes to pass.” (RP Testimony 3.1)

*SUFFERING* *SOVEREIGNTY* *SYMPATHY*  
“In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.”  
Job 12:10

## KEY TERMS: DECREE/PLAN

“It is God’s decree which by itself completely determines the course of history; it is never the course of history which in any way determines or modifies God’s decree.” (RP Testimony 3.2)

IN HIS HAND  
*SUFFERING* **SOVEREIGNTY** *SYMPATHY*  
“In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.”  
Job 12:10

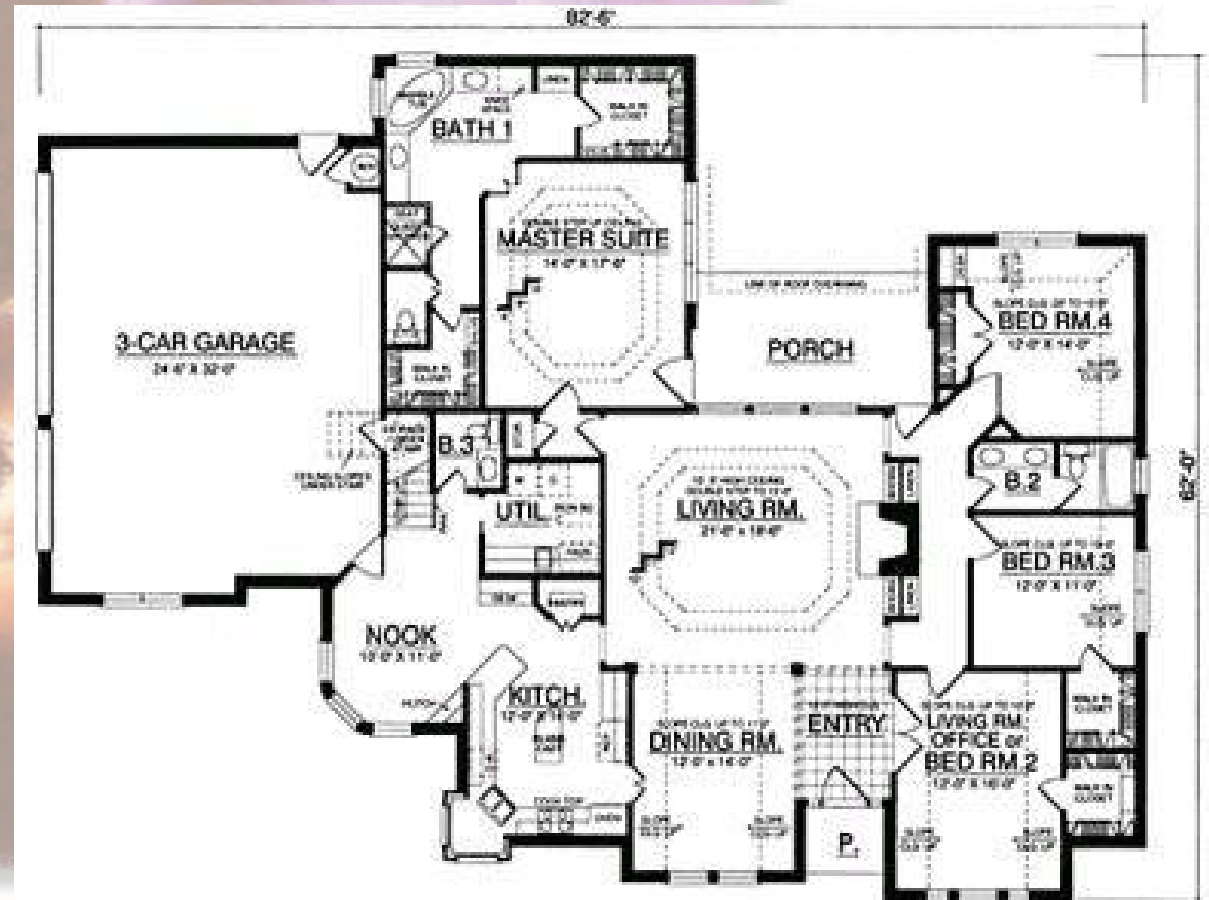
# GOD'S "BLUEPRINT"

Map

Mechanical  
drawing

Architectural  
plan

Engineering  
design



**SUFFERING**

Personal Growth in Godliness

**SOVEREIGNTY**

*"In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind."*

Lesson #3: Plan/Providence

**SYMPATHY**



# KEY TERMS: SUMMARY

In eternity past, God freely and specifically decreed everything that will come to pass in time.

The sum total of God's decrees make up His eternal plan

This sovereign plan determines history

*SUFFERING* **SOVEREIGNTY** *SYMPATHY*  
"In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind."  
Job 12:10



# PRINCIPLE #1: MUCH OF GOD'S PLAN IS UNKNOWN TO US

IN HIS HAND  
*S*UFFERING *S*OVEREIGNTY *S*YMPATHY  
"In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind."  
Job 12:10

# PRINCIPLE #1: PARTIAL KNOWLEDGE

**WLC Q. 6.** What do the Scriptures make known of God?

**A.** The Scriptures make known what God is, the persons in the Godhead, his decrees, and the execution of his decrees.

IN HIS HAND  
*SUFFERING* SOVEREIGNTY *SYMPATHY*  
"In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind."  
Job 12:10

# PRINCIPLE #1: PARTIAL KNOWLEDGE

*“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.”*

**(Deuteronomy 29:29)**

IN HIS HAND  
**SUFFERING** **SOVEREIGNTY** **SYMPATHY**  
“In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.”  
Job 12:10



PRINCIPLE #1:  
MUCH OF GOD'S PLAN IS UNKNOWN TO US

**Read:** Job 1:13-22 and Job 2:7-10

**Discuss:** How did Job and his wife respond to Job's unexpected plight? How is it instructive for us?

IN HIS HAND  
*SUFFERING* SOVEREIGNTY *SYMPATHY*  
"In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind."  
Job 12:10

# PRINCIPLE #1

Job's suffering (1:20-22; 2:9-10)

– Implications for us

“the fringes of His ways” (26:14a)

Examples (Daniel 3:16-18; James  
4:13-15)

SUFFERING

SOVEREIGNTY

SYMPATHY

*"In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind."*  
Job 12:10

# SATAN'S ALLEGATIONS

Job's reason for fearing God  
(1:9-10; 2:4)

Job's reason for cursing God  
(1:11; 2:5)

IN HIS HAND  
*SUFFERING* SOVEREIGNTY *SYMPATHY*  
"In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind."  
Job 12:10

# SATAN'S ALLEGATIONS

*“Does God’s finest servant, his boasted showpiece, Job, serve him for conscience or convenience? It is this that sets the story in motion.”* (Derek Kidner)

IN HIS HAND  
**SUFFERING** **SOVEREIGNTY** **SYMPATHY**  
“In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.”  
Job 12:10