

*S*OVEREIGNTY, *S*UFFERING,  
AND *S*YMPATHY

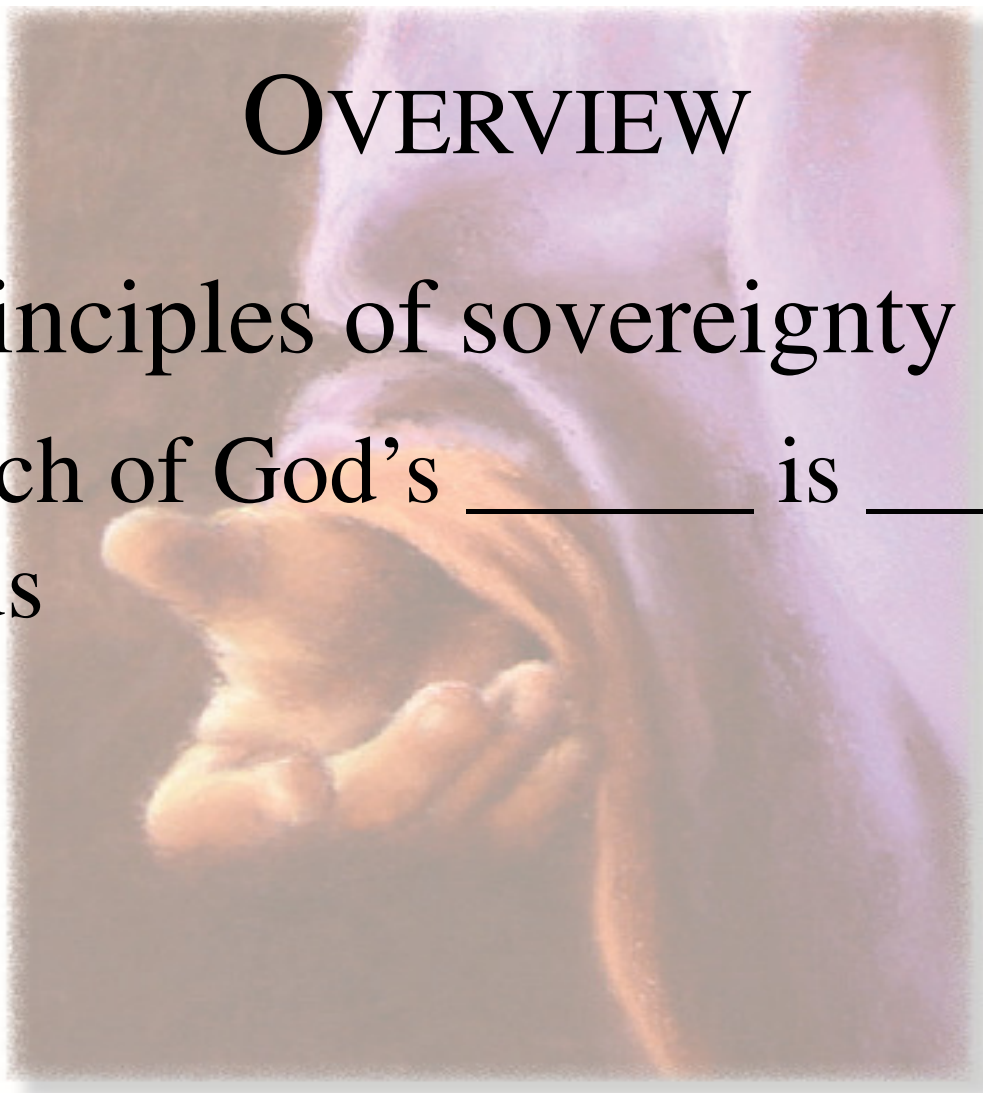
A Thematic Study in Job

**CONDITIONALITY AND CERTAINTY**

# OVERVIEW

Three principles of sovereignty so far:

1. Much of God's \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_  
to us

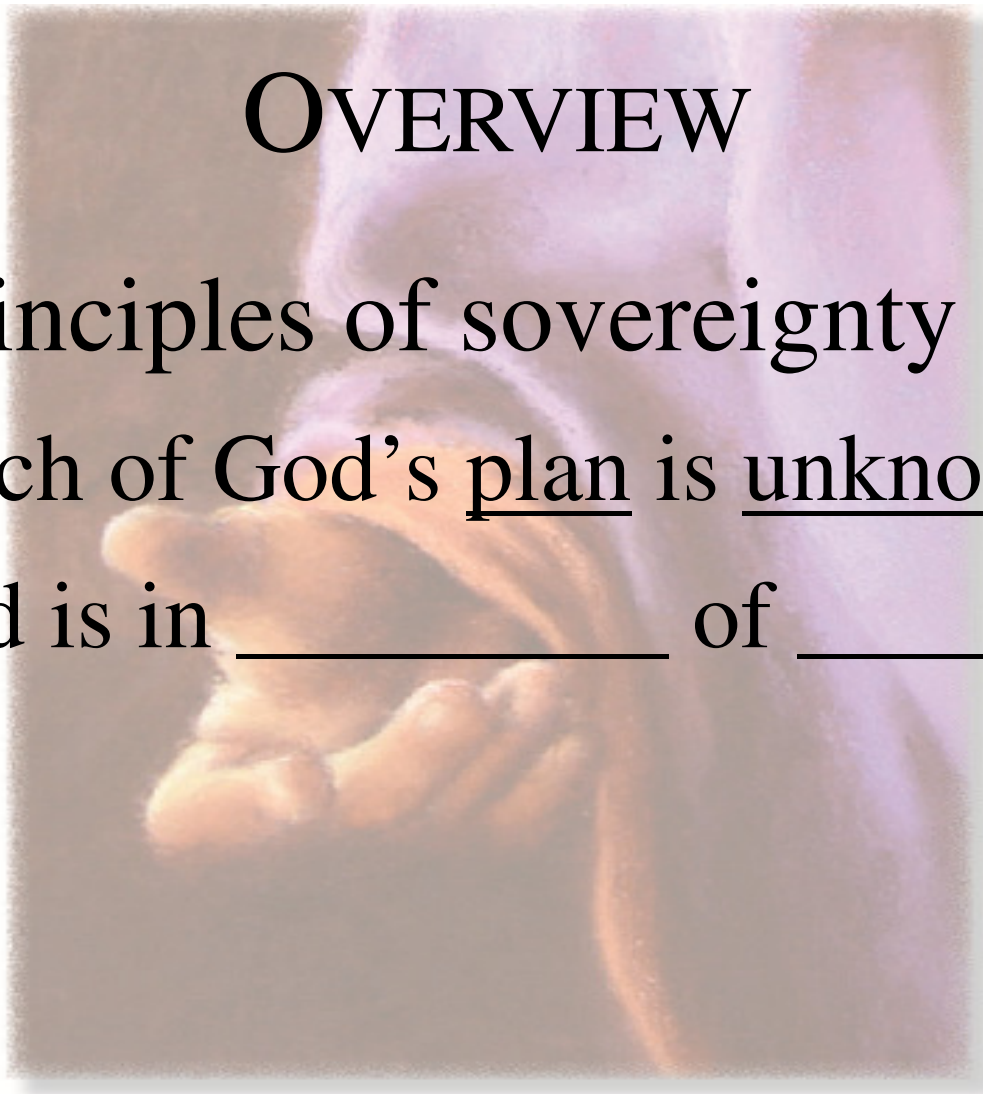


IN HIS HAND  
*SUFFERING* **SOVEREIGNTY** *SYMPATHY*  
"In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind."  
Job 12:10

# OVERVIEW

Three principles of sovereignty so far:

1. Much of God's plan is unknown to us
2. God is in \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_



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# OVERVIEW

Three principles of sovereignty so far:

1. Much of God's plan is unknown to us
2. God is in control of everything
3. God acts according to His \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_

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# OVERVIEW

Three principles of sovereignty so far:

1. Much of God's plan is unknown to us
2. God is in control of everything
3. God acts according to His plan, purpose, and good pleasure

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# KEY CONCEPTS: CONDITIONALITY

On what does God's plan depend?

Romans 9:10-16

“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)

SUFFERING

SOVEREIGNTY

SYMPATHY

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# KEY CONCEPTS: CONDITIONALITY

“Although God knows whatsoever may or can come to pass upon all supposed conditions, yet hath He not decreed anything because He foresaw it as future, or as that which would come to pass upon such conditions.” (WCF 3.2)

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# KEY CONCEPTS: CERTAINTY

To what degree is God's plan alterable?

Isaiah 14:24-27

“We reject any teaching which denies or obscures the difference between God the Creator and man the creature or the rest of creation.” (RP Testimony 2.2)

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# KEY CONCEPTS: CONDITIONALITY

“God ... is the alone fountain of all being, of whom, through whom, and to whom are all things; and hath most sovereign dominion over them, to do by them, for them, or upon them whatsoever Himself pleaseth ... His knowledge is infinite, infallible, and independent upon the creature, so as nothing is to Him contingent, or uncertain ...” (WCF 2.2)

*SUFFERING* *SOVEREIGNTY* *SYMPATHY*

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PRINCIPLE #4: GOD'S  
PLAN IS  
UNCONDITIONAL AND  
CERTAIN

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# PRINCIPLE #4: JOB'S FRIENDS

## The perspective of Job's friends

- Cause/effect based on sin/righteousness (4:7; compare to Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 53; 1 Peter 3:18)
- God's “rulebook” (8:6; 22:23, 34:11)

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## PRINCIPLE #4: JOB

### The perspective of Job

- God’s independent choice (1:20-22)
- Both good and adversity are from God (2:9-10)
- God cannot be stopped (23:13-14; 42:1-2; cf. Psalm 33:11)

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# PRINCIPLE #4: IMPACT



**SUFFERING** *IN HIS HAND* **SOVEREIGNTY** **SYMPATHY**  
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