

God's Sovereignty

Rules

Read Psalm 103:19. This verse tells us that God's sovereignty rules over all. What exactly does this mean? Do a word study of the word "rules" in this passage to find out what this word is saying.

Strone's

Definition from concordance

Define in your own words

How do you say the word?

Word in original language

Is it hard for you to believe that God's kingdom rules over all? If God's kingdom is sovereign, then why is there so much evil in the world? How come people are dying for their faith in certain places in the world? People have been asking these questions for years and years, so you're not alone! Write below all the big questions you have that you wish you could ask God.

The great thing is that you CAN ask God these questions! Spend some time praying and talking to God about the questions you have. Spend some time listening too and seeing what the Holy Spirit might speak into your life.



Dear Lord,

{Insert your questions and thoughts for God here}

Amen

We can always go to God with our questions. But, even in the midst of evil we have the opportunity to trust God. Either we believe that God's sovereignty rules, or we don't. Read Psalm 62:8. When are we to trust God? What are we to also do? Can we ask God our questions and also trust Him? What does this verse say about who God is?

A helpful analogy for trusting God is that of refining. When someone puts metal in a fire, it is REALLY hot! It would burn a person! But the heat of the fire burns away the impurities of the metal, making it pure. The refiner knows what he is doing, and he puts the metal into the fire for a reason. In the same way, God often allows us to go through many trials and hardships in life. But, we can trust Him because He knows what He is doing! He is using these things to refine us so we are purer and more like God.



To end this lesson, look up the following verses about God being a Refiner. Commit to trusting God at all times, even when life is hard!

Jeremiah 9:7

Zechariah 13:9

Malachi 3:3

Peace in Pain

A great example of someone finding peace in pain is Habakkuk. Let's follow his story in five parts!

1. Read Habakkuk 1:1-4. Why is Habakkuk in turmoil? Write down the reasons why he is experiencing pain in his life

In Habakkuk 1:4, he says that "justice never goes forth." Do a word study on the word "justice" and see what exactly Habakkuk is asking for!

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2. Read Habakkuk 1:5-6. What does the Lord say in response to Habakkuk?

In this section, God replies to Habakkuk by telling him that he will raise up the Chaldeans (Babylonians) to judge Judah. Judah was Habakkuk's home, and the Babylonians were going to take over! How would you respond if you were Habakkuk?

3. Read Habakkuk 1:13. What is Habakkuk's question back to the Lord after hearing that his nation would be judged by a more sinful nation?

4. Read Habakkuk 2:8. What does God say about the Babylonians in response to Habakkuk's question?

God reassures Habakkuk that because the Babylonians attack many people, they will be judged. Since God is announcing "woes" against them, He is saying that they are evil and that their evil will not go unaccounted for. So, God will bring judgment and the evil nation will be in shame (Hab. 2:16).

5. Habakkuk responds one more time to God. This time, his response is different. Read Habakkuk 3:17-19 and write below the main things that Habakkuk says.

Looking back over the five parts of the story, we can see that Habakkuk found peace in the pain of what was happening to Judah. How did he do it? Write below how you think Habakkuk found peace in the pain of his situation, and ask God to help you do this in hard times too!

How to find Peace in Pain:



Dear Lord,

Even in the hard times, I will rejoice in You. I will take joy in You. You are my strength! Please help me to find peace in the pain like Habakkuk did!

Amen

Renewing Your Mind

Read Romans 12:1-2. According to these verses, what are the things we are called to do? Instead of being conformed to the world, what is to happen?

Today we are looking at the idea of being transformed by the renewing of our minds. Do a word study on the word “renew” so you know what it means to have your mind renewed.

Strone's	Definition from concordance
Define in your own words	
How do you say the word?	Word in original language

Read Philippians 4:6-8. Instead of being anxious, what are we to do (vs. 6)?

As we do these things, what will God do (vs. 7)?

To renew our minds, what kind of things are we to think about (vs. 8)?

When trials come, we aren't to be anxious, but we are to do something! This is not victim thinking, it is mind-renewing thinking. Notice that both we and God play a part in this type of thinking.

Read Philippians 3:13-14. Below the arrows write what Paul does with what was behind him and what was ahead of him.



Now read Philippians 3:15. What kind of thinking is this mindset?

Whereas Satan wants you to focus on what you were or on what the trouble is, our responsibility is to refocus our thinking and to press on.

Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. What is the real battle we are facing- of flesh or of the mind? In verse 5, what are we told to do as a part of this battle?

It is important to remember that our minds can only be renewed through God's power. However, this does not mean we have no role in the process! Write below what you've learned from this lesson that you can do so that your mind may be renewed.

What I can do so my mind may be renewed:



Dear Lord,

As I commit to prayer and right thinking, please renew my mind more and more to be more like You. I trust You!

Amen