

God is Reigning

2 Chronicles 20:1-30

Main Idea

God is reigning and his rule is for the good of his people. Or to say it another way, the Lord is sovereign and providentially works on behalf of his people.

Overview

Definitions

- Sovereign: God is in control over all things, his supreme reign
- Providence: God actively rules in all things, his gracious provision

Context

- Chronicles is a divine editorial on the history of God's people
 - 1st word is Adam (1 Chronicles 1:1)
 - Last thing that happens is exile (2 Chronicles 36)
- 2 Chronicles 20
 - Kingdom is divided into Israel (10 northern tribes) and Judah (2 southern tribes)
 - Jehoshaphat is a good king (2 Chronicles 17:3-6, 10; 19)

The Lord is Sovereign, Therefore Trust Him in Trials

- “After this” – even though Jehoshaphat has been striving God, trials still come his way
- Jehoshaphat “seek the Lord”
 - Seeks, 3 times
 - The Lord – covenant name of God
- Jehoshaphat and the people pray
 - Declare who God is (v. 6) – he is sovereign
 - Remember what God has done (v. 7) – he has acted providentially for his people
 - Look to God alone (v. 12)

The Lord is Sovereign, Therefore Take Risks for the Glory of His Name

- As the people pray, God gives a word to a prophet (v. 15)
- God tells the people the battle is not theirs, but his (v. 15-17)
- The people take God at his word and leave “very early” for battle (v. 20-21)
 - They lead out with songs, not with singers
 - God's sovereignty fuels their eager obedience
- God fulfills his promise, the enemies destroy each other (v. 22-23)

The Lord is Sovereign, Therefore Treasure Him & Thank Him for Triumphs

- The spoil from the victory is so much it takes 3 days to gather it all (v. 25)
- The people immediately bless the Lord on the battlefield (v. 26)
- The continue praising God in the house of the Lord (v. 27)
- Fear of God came upon the surrounding nations (v. 29-30)

Questions

Discussion Starter: Take a few minutes and share how this sermon series has encouraged or helped you so far.

1. What is the context for Chronicles 20?
2. Read 2 Chronicles 20:1-20. What type of trial is Jehoshaphat facing? How does Jehoshaphat respond? How doesn't he respond?

3. Have there been times when you've responded the same as Jehoshaphat? If so, how? Differently? If so, how?
4. Looking at verses 7-12, what do you notice about Jehoshaphat's prayer? How might Jehoshaphat's prayer be a guide for us in times of trial?
5. What's the opposite of verse 12? How do we often live that way? Why?
6. Looking at verses 13-23, what does God promise to his people about the battle? How do they respond? How does this challenge you?
7. How do you see the people's understanding of the Lord's sovereign providence encouraging their "risky" obedience? Why is it the same for us?
8. Are there ways you see "risky" obedience by fellow Restoration members that's encouraging and/or challenging to you?
9. Compare how Jehoshaphat and the people respond to their trial to the way they respond to triumph in verses 25-30. What does this tell you about the posture of their heart?
10. Where are some areas you can thank God for his provision? What are some ways you build in thankfulness to your life? What is the danger in not being thankful in the good times?
11. Why is it important that God is both sovereign and providential?

Accountability: Are you facing a trial you'd like your brothers and sisters to pray for, or is there any area of blessing you'd like to praise God for? Are there areas where God is calling you to "risky" obedience?