

## **Equipped 8 - God sees to it**

13<sup>th</sup> June 2021

### **Introduction**

How do you cope when b\_\_\_\_ things happen?

### **The Teaching**

Evangelical Alliance statement of faith, Article 2: “The love, grace and sovereignty of God in creating, sustaining, ruling, redeeming and judging the world.”

What is “sovereignty”? “God plans and controls everything that happens, without being responsible for s\_\_\_ and evil, and without removing human responsibility.” Not just sovereign – also loving. G\_\_\_\_. So his sovereignty is good.

God has a purpose. Providence = “Purposeful sovereignty.” “God sees to it.”

### **Creating and sustaining**

- > Psalm 104
- > Jesus, God the S\_\_\_\_, sustains the universe (Colossians 1:17, Hebrews 1:3). Laws of science – God's habits.
- > Weather and animals and birds (Matthew 5:45, 6:26)
- > Purpose: God's glory – Psalm 104:31

### **Ruling**

*Over the nations / world events*

- > Habakkuk 1:5-6, 2:6-19, 2:20. Isaiah 13-27. Daniel 4:34-35.
- > Why? For his glory and the good of his people. Eg Exodus 9:16, 14:4, Ezekiel 36:22.
- > “The theatre of God's glory.” (John Calvin).

*Over the circumstances of our lives*

- > Life of Joseph (Genesis 37-50, particularly 50:19-21).
- > Hairs of our head numbered (Matthew 10:28-31). See also Proverbs 16:9; Psalm 139, particularly v16.

### **Redeeming and judging**

- > The events of Jesus's d\_\_\_\_\_ and resurrection (Acts 4:24-30, 1 Peter 3:18)

- > God chose his people before the beginning of t\_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 1:4, John 6:37-40). Why? “To the praise of his glorious grace” (Eph 1:6)
- > Made us spiritually alive (Ephesians 2:1-4, John 3:1-8).
- > Will keep us going to the e\_\_\_\_. (Philippians 1:6, John 10:27-29)
- > God k\_\_\_\_\_ who he's chosen. Acts 13:48.

### **But what about...**

*Why do bad things have to happen to us?*

3 explanations...

Romans 8:28; Romans 5:8; Romans 8:32

*Are people still responsible? Why do we serve / pray / evangelise / work hard?*

> Undermines our freedom and independence? See Free will talk

> Why bother doing anything?

- God's sovereignty and our responsibility go together - Philippians 2:12-13; Col 1:28-29; Acts 13:48
- God has tethered the advance of his kingdom to the w\_\_\_\_\_ of his church. Eg Ephesians 2:10, Exodus 32:7-14.

### **Thinking it through / Applying to ourselves**

- > Confidence (eg Isaiah 55:10-11)
- > Comfort and peace (eg Psalm 46:10)
- > Worship (Job 1:20-21, Romans 11:33-36)

### **Taking it further**

*Books*

Why do bad things happen to good people? - Melvin Tinker  
Providence – John Piper – Introduction, Chapters 1-2 – download free at <https://www.desiringgod.org/books/providence>

*Sermons*

Listen at [www.anlabychurches.org.uk](http://www.anlabychurches.org.uk) Go to Resources / Listen again:  
Habakkuk – Talk 3 (30 August 20) available; ask Steve to email copies of talk 1 and 2!

Joseph – 8 May 2016 onwards

Ephesians – 8 Jan 2017 onwards

Article 10 – Free will: Good people go to heaven right? - 13 Sept 2020