

Lesson 4

# GOD IS SOVERIGN

**By Darrell Crow**

**Not So Basic Christianity — Study Guides For Discipleship**

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# God's Is Sovereign

## LESSON 4

Not So Basic Christianity:  
Biblical Study Guides For Discipleship

By

Darrell Crow

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## God's Is Sovereign

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# 1.0 First Discussion Questions

1. Define what it means to be sovereign and apply it to God Almighty?

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2. Does the clay pot say to the potter how it will be used?

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3. Can You Reject God's sovereignty?

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4. Outside of God's authority, power and position, what else has these characteristics?

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5. Why would the sovereign God want or desire Fellowship. What does God receive in return??

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## 2.0 All Authority, Power, And Position

God has all authority, all power, and all position to govern over all His creation. In fact there is no authority, no power, no position anywhere except God's.

As created beings, whatever authority, power, or position man exercises is in fact God's and utilized by His permission and benevolence.

Dr. Geisler, author of Systematic Theology, Vol 2., 539, wrote, "Sovereignty is God's control over His creation, dealing with His governance over it: Sovereignty is God's rule over all reality."



Charles Ryrie, in his book, Basic Theology,<sup>43</sup> adds this "The word means principal, chief, supreme. It speaks first of position (God is the chief Being in the universe), then of power (God is su-

preme in power in the universe). How He exercises that power is revealed in the Scriptures. A sovereign God could be a dictator (God is not). Or a sovereign could abdicate the use of his powers (God has not). Ultimately God is in control of all things and sustains all things, though He may choose to let certain events happen according to natural laws which He has ordained."

The web page, [www.gotquestions.org/sovereign-grace.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/sovereign-grace.html) states the following concerning God's sovereignty, "The sovereignty of God means that He has total control of all things past, present and future. Nothing happens that is out of His knowledge and control. All things are either caused by Him or allowed by Him for His own purposes and through His perfect will and timing. He is the only absolute and omnipotent ruler of the universe and is sovereign in crea-



tion, providence and redemption."

- Romans 11:36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.
- 1 Corinthians 8:6 yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.



Pink, A.W. The Sovereignty of God, chap. 1 clarifies further the definition of the Sovereignty of God.

*What do we mean by [the sovereignty of God]? We mean the supremacy of God, the kingship of God, the god-hood of God. To say that God is Sovereign is to declare that God is God. To say that God is Sovereign is to declare that He is the Most High, doing according to His will in the army of Heaven, and among overthrowing empires, and determining the course of dynasties as pleases Him best.*

To say that God is Sovereign is to declare that He is the Almighty, the Possessor of all power in Heaven and earth, so that none can defeat His counsels, thwart His purpose, or resist His will (*Psalm 115:3 But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.*).

To say that God is Sovereign is to declare that He is "*The Governor among the nations*" (*Psalm 22:28*), setting up kingdoms,

To say that God is Sovereign is to declare that He is the "*Only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords*" (*1 Timothy 6:15*). Such is the God of the Bible."

R.C. Sproul, says in, Now That's A Good Question ...

*"If there is any element of the universe that is outside of His authority, then He no longer is God over all. In other words, sovereignty belongs to deity. Sovereignty is a natural attribute of the Creator. God owns what He makes, and He rules what He owns."*

In his book, Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God, J.I.

*"Packer notes [Divine sovereignty] embraces everything that comes into the biblical picture of God as Lord and King in His world, the One who 'worketh all things after the counsel of His own will', directing every process and ordering every event for the fulfilling of His own eternal plan."*

### 3.0 The Sovereign Plan

Our Sovereign God has a plan for each and everyone of our lives. And He wants to lead us through each step of the way. That is why one of the names of God, Emmanuel, means "God with us."



God wants to be intimately involved in our lives. He wants us to know His voice and follow Him.

In fact, God wanted to be with us so strongly that He sent His Son, a part of Himself, to physically walk the earth. That baby in the manger was God and He is still with us today. This Jesus, God's only Son, even



though He lived a perfect, sinless life, died in our place for our sin and rebellion against God. Jesus paid the sin debt therefore we are saved from the guilt and consequences of sin.

The Holy Spirit was deposited as the earnest of our salvation that we may live day-by-day in victory conquering sin's influences in our new life as God's elect.

The truly good news is that God is not a distant God, a God to be feared and avoided, a God of revenge, but a God who is moved by our pains and participates in the fullness of the human struggle. . . . God is a com-

passionate God. Thus God is a holy God who has chosen to be God-with-us. . . .

As soon as we call God "God-with-us," we enter into a new relationship of intimacy with him. By calling God Emmanuel, we recognize God's commitment to live in solidarity with us, to share our life, to defend and protect us, and to suffer all of life with us.

Emmanuel is a close God, more than we can comprehend. He is our refuge, our stronghold, our wisdom, and our helper, our shepherd, our love. We will never really know God as a compassionate God if we do not understand with our heart and mind that "*And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.*" (John 1:14). xoxoxo

God position as the Sovereign God is an understatement of His love and compassion for each of us. The ultimate Supreme Being did not lord His position over man, rather He embraced and wholly lowered Himself to be the embodiment Emmanuel. He is our God-With-Us.

In the prophecy of the virgin birth, Isaiah 7:14, the prophet Isaiah declares, "*Therefore the Lord*

*Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.*" This prophecy had an initial fulfillment during Isaiah's day, but it ultimately refers to the birth of Jesus, as we see in Matthew 1:22-23: "*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: (23) "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."*") This does not mean, however, that the Messiah's actual given name would be Emmanuel.



There are many “names” given to Jesus in the Old and New Testaments, and Immanuel is one of them. Isaiah elsewhere prophesied of the Messiah, “*For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*” (Isaiah 9:6). Jesus was never called by any of those “names” by the people He met in Galilee or Judea, but they are accurate descriptions of who He is and what He does. The angel said that Jesus “*He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;*” (Luke 1:32) and “the Son of God” (verse 35), but neither of those was His given name.

## 4.0 God With Us

The prophet Jeremiah writes of “a King who will reign wisely” (Jeremiah 23:5), and he gives us the name of the coming Messiah: “*And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness’*” (Jeremiah 23:6, “*In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell securely; And this is His name by which He will be called, ‘The LORD our righteousness.’*”).

Jesus was never called “The Lord Our Righteousness” as a name, but we can call Him that! He brings the righteousness of God to us. Upon one’s salvation Christ’s righteousness (that is His position before God) is what God sees. Jesus’ righteousness is imputed to US. Jesus is God in the flesh, and the One who makes us righteous.

- *1 Corinthians 1:30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,*
- *2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

George Herman Ruth was named George, of course. But we can call him other things, and we’re talking about the same person: “Babe,” “the Bambino,” “the Sultan of Swat,” or “the Colossus of Clout.” The names for Babe Ruth multiplied due to his personal history and his talent on the ballfield. In a similar way, we can call Jesus by His given

name, but we can also call Him “Immanuel.” Or “Wonderful,” “Counselor,” “Prince of Peace,” or “The Lord Our Righteousness.” The names of Jesus Christ multiply due to His divine nature and unequalled holy work.





restore creation to its original beauty. We know Him as Jesus, but we can also call Him “God with us,” because that’s exactly who He is. *“God Our Righteousness!”*

*God s the ultimate authority, power and position and willfully, selfishly displays His sovereignty by choosing to be God-With-Us.*

To say that Jesus would be called “Immanuel” means Jesus is God and that He dwelt among us in His incarnation and that He is always with us. Jesus was God in the flesh.

Jesus was God making His dwelling among us (John 1:1, 14). God keeps His promises. The virgin Mary bore a son. Two thousand years ago, in Bethlehem, we see that baby born and lowered onto a straw bed. That baby, as incredible as it seems, is God. That Baby is God with us. Jesus, as our Emmanuel, is omnipotence, omniscience, perfection, and the love that never fail.

No, Joseph did not name Jesus “Emmanuel,” but Jesus’ nature makes Him truly Emmanuel, “God with us.”

Isaiah told us to watch for Emmanuel, the virgin-born Son of God. He will save us; He will reconcile mankind to God and



## 5.0 Final Discussion Questions

1. How can God's sovereignty display a God who has deliberately chosen mankind for personal fellowship?

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2. When God declares He Is Sovereign what does this statement encompass?

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3. Who is God Emmanuel? Why?

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4. What does God's sovereignty tell you about His character

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5. How does freewill co-exist with God's sovereignty?

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# Not So Basic Christianity

Bible study guides includes all the lessons below. Ideal for personal growth and Bible Study groups.

## God

- Lesson 1: The Purpose Of Life
- Lesson 2: God's Will For You
- Lesson 3: God Almighty
- Lesson 4: God Is Sovereign
- Lesson 5: God's Attributes
- Lesson 6: Eternity
- Lesson 7: God's Love

## Creation

- Lesson 8: Heaven
- Lesson 9: Angels
- Lesson 10: Hell
- Lesson 11: Satan And Demons
- Lesson 12: Earth And Man

## Foreknowledge, Election, Predestination

- Lesson 13: God's Foreknowledge
- Lesson 14: God's Election
- Lesson 15: Predestination

## The Elect

- Lesson 16: Election Of Man
- Lesson 17: ELECTION Of Angels
- Lesson 18: Election Of Israel
- Lesson 19: Election Of Jesus

## Restoration

- Lesson 20: The Fall Of Man
- Lesson 21: Salvation
- Lesson 22: Eternal Security
- Lesson 23: Order Of Salvation
- Lesson 24: Called Of God
- Lesson 25: Conversion
- Lesson 26: Regeneration
- Lesson 27: Righteousness
- Lesson 28: Justification
- Lesson 29: Glorification
- Lesson 30: Sanctification

## Discipleship

- Lesson 31: The Great Commission
- Lesson 32: Spring Cleaning
- Lesson 33: Manna
- Lesson 34: Staying In The World
- Lesson 35: Witnessing
- Lesson 36: Ministering

# Not So Basic Christianity

Bible study guides includes all the lessons below. Ideal for personal growth and Bible Study groups.

## End Times

- Lesson 37: The Rapture
- Lesson 38: Prophecy
- Lesson 39: The Great Tribulation
- Lesson 40: Revelation—The Rest Of The Story
- Lesson 41: Seven Seals, Two Interludes
- Lesson 42: Seven Trumpets, Seven Interludes
- Lesson 43: Seven Bowls and Seven More Interludes
- Lesson 44: Antichrist, False Prophets, The Abomination That Causes Desolation, ,Armageddon
- Lesson 45: Israel, Tribulation Saints
- Lesson 46: Marriage
- Lesson 47: Pre-Millennial &The Millennial Kingdom
- Lesson 48: The Final War and Judgement
- Lesson 49: New Heavens & New Earth
- Lesson 50: Restored





In a lay-leader class at Medway Community Church of Medway, MA a few years ago, I was challenged to defend my faith and the doctrines I held dear. I found myself embarrassed as it was quickly apparent that I was ill equipped to either defend or explain my beliefs.

Less than two weeks passed and I was again challenged in a local Men's Bible study. To my discredit, I once again was unable to defend my beliefs.

I resolved to correct this deficiency and set out to thoroughly study the Scriptures and document my findings on salvation and Jesus' teachings in an organized fashion. My original objective was to put together a short "white paper" to define and support my position and beliefs on predestination. God wanted me instead, to become His disciple in a life long pursuit of truth. I quickly found myself asking more and more questions that compelled me to constantly research, study and document. My goals expanded broader and faster. This study required me to put aside all my biases, read God's word freshly and intently, discuss with scholars and read numerous documents on Christian doctrines. I lost track of time, so involved were my studies. It has now been over a decade since I first undertook the quest to write a simple white paper.

God has been especially gracious in guiding my study of His revealed word. This study has been a true joy. The more I studied, the more in awe of our Almighty God I became. I was compelled from within to continue worshipping, studying, fellowshiping, and serving Him.

### Quick Notes About the Author

- Married, father of three children, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.
- Saved in 1974 at FBC Church, San Jose, CA
- Tutored by lay leaders, ministers, authors, teachers, scientists and philosophers
- Currently member of FBC Bellingham, MA under the ministry of Pastor Rodrigues
- Challenged in 2 bible studies by my lack of understanding biblical doctrines. I resolved to correct this deficiency and committed myself to becoming a disciple of Christ
- These study guides summarize God's teachings and chronicles God's plan to restore Man for eternal fellowship with Him.

# **NOT SO BASIC CHRISTIANITY**

**A Series Of Seven Study Guides For Discipleship**

*God's desire to share Himself and fellowship with mankind sparked God to plan, elect and create all things. Man was created for eternal fellowship and love with God. God elected (planned and made choices) all things prior to speaking the Universe, and all life into existence. And His Creation was "Very Good."*

**God**

**Creation**

**Foreknowledge, Election, Predestination**

**The Elect**

**Restoration**

**Discipleship**

**End Times**