

## **DO YOU RECOGNIZE JEHOVAH'S SOVEREIGNTY IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE?**

### *Note to the speaker:*

Explain why Jehovah is the rightful Sovereign, how he lovingly exercises his rulership, and the benefits that one obtains by submitting to His sovereignty

### **JEHOVAH IS THE RIGHTFUL SOVEREIGN OF THE UNIVERSE** (5 min.)

He is supreme in rule and the ultimate Source of all authority and power (Ps 145:13; *it-2* 1008)

Entire creation dependent on him as the Creator and only true God (Ac 17:28; Re 4:11)

He alone is uncreated, without beginning or end (Job 36:26; Re 10:6)

Jehovah's position as Sovereign Ruler and the Almighty must be recognized (1Ch 29:11; Re 15:3)

### **HOW JEHOVAH'S SOVEREIGNTY WAS CHALLENGED** (8 min.)

Jehovah's sovereignty remained unchallenged until after the creation of man and woman

It was then that a spirit creature of God saw an opportunity to attack God's sovereignty and tried to establish a rival sovereignty

In garden of Eden, Jehovah lovingly exercised his sovereignty

Created man in His image, to reflect His qualities and personality (1Co 11:7)

Gave man an assignment in harmony with his ability (Ge 1:26-28)

Man would have been happy acting and living in conformity with God's will (Ps 128:1; 144:15b)

The only prohibition served as a test of obedience to God's sovereignty, which Adam would demonstrate by refraining from eating of the 'tree of knowledge of good and bad' (Ge 2:16, 17; *it-2* 1011)

Reasonable test; no bad, improper motives attributed to Adam; no hardship imposed

Only God has right to determine good and bad and the role for his creation (Isa 29:16)

Satan challenged Jehovah's rightful sovereignty (Ge 3:1-5)

The *fact* of God's supremacy and sovereignty not challenged, for no one can take away his supreme authority and power

Challenge was regarding the rightfulness and righteousness of Jehovah's sovereignty, whether exercised in worthy way and in best interest of subjects

Questioned whether God had right to determine good and bad

Assaulted God's truthfulness and goodness, saying, "God knows"

Lyingly asserted that enlightenment, not death, would result from eating forbidden fruit

Also slandered God's servants as to their integrity to God's sovereignty (Job 2:3-5)

### **WHY GOD HAS ALLOWED TIME TO SETTLE THE ISSUE** (10 min.)

Jehovah is not unsure of righteousness of his sovereignty, nor does he have to prove anything to himself

Satan did not challenge God's power, which could have been demonstrated by the immediate destruction of Satan

He counted on God's fairness, thinking that God would be obligated to let him live if he proved his charge concerning the unfaithfulness of God's creatures

Moral issue involved

God gives mankind opportunity and privilege of proving the Devil a liar and of removing the slander from God's name and their own

In allowing Satan to use every means to prove his contentions, God ensured that the issue would be settled once for all time

By withstanding wickedness, those who acknowledge God's sovereignty and serve him faithfully can prove Satan's claims to be false (Pr 27:11)

God's patience gives sinners opportunity to abandon wrong course, subject themselves willingly to God's righteous rule, and prove their love and devotion to God (Ro 9:22-26; 2Pe 3:9; *rs* 429-30)

Issue included God's heavenly creatures, even his only-begotten Son, who always pleased his Father

Sent on assignment to the earth, Jesus, in a totally perfect way, proved the Devil a liar (Joh 14:30; 16:33; *it-2* 1012)

Will eventually bring to nothing all government, authority, and power that stand against Jehovah's sovereignty (1Co 15:24-28)

### **HOW WE CAN INDIVIDUALLY SHOW RECOGNITION OF GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY** (17 min.)

Diligently study God's Word, the Bible, and seek to obey his will in association with other true Christians (Zep 2:2, 3)

Avoid presumptuousness and a spirit of independence (*it-2* 681)

Let God decide what is good and bad for us; avoid setting own standards

Youths, fight against wanting to be independent of parents or others in authority (Eph 6:1-3)

Wives, fight against wanting to be independent of husbands; show respect, cooperation (Eph 5:22, 23; *fl* 54-69)

Husbands, follow Bible counsel at Ephesians 5:25 and 1 Peter 3:7 (*fl* 40-53)

Show respect for Jehovah's appointed servants, including "faithful and discreet slave" and elders in the congregation (Mt 24:45)

[Contrast Hebrews 13:7, 17 with account in Numbers 12; emphasize that Moses was God's servant]

Stay clear of the influence of the world under Satan's dominion (Eph 2:2, 3)

Be on guard against characteristics of spirit of the world (*rs* 390-3)

Cultivate right motives so that you will obey Jehovah at all times

Follow examples of Noah, Sarah, Moses, Joseph, Job (*wt* 54-7)

Even though we are sinners and cannot act in a perfect way, we must desire to be dependent on God and to make decisions in harmony with his will

Will we follow the voice of God and the example of Jesus? (Pr 3:5; 1Pe 2:21)

#### **FUTURE BLESSINGS FOR THOSE WHO RECOGNIZE JEHOVAH'S SOVEREIGNTY (5 min.)**

Now is time to take a stand on side of God's sovereignty (*w91* 3/1 7)

Those who do so out of love and appreciation for Jehovah and a desire to serve him will be set free as "children of God" (Ro 8:21, 22; *w87* 1/1 24, 26, 28)

Our service to him is not a burden (1Jo 5:3)

Those who prove that they want to be dependent on Jehovah will form the nucleus of the "new earth" (2Pe 3:13; *sl* 324-5)

God's Kingdom rule will undo all the damage done by Satan (Da 2:44)

Under God's care, even painful memories will be erased (Isa 14:7; 65:17, 18; *dg* 27-8)

Everlasting life determined by whether we remain dependent on Jehovah or not (Re 20:12, 15)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read. Source material in parentheses need not be mentioned)