



Welcome To Open Bible Hour

Thank you for joining us on this Lord's Day!

Our desire is that you may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ as we pursue an in-depth study of the book of Hebrews.

If you have a prayer request, for which you would like us to pray, please fill out a prayer sheet at the back table and give to Lyle.

Our website: OpenBibleHour.net

**“BY FAITH ABRAHAM, ISAAC, JACOB, AND JOSEPH TRUSTED
GOD FOR THE FUTURE ”**

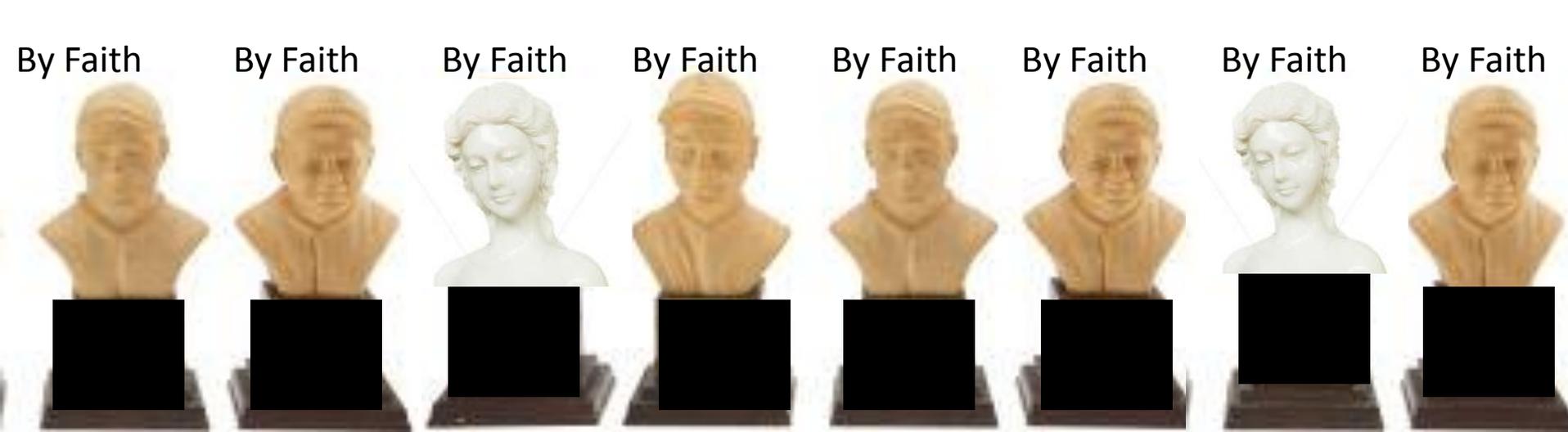
Hebrews 11:17-22

March 16, 2014

HALL OF FAITH



Brought the right sacrifice	Walked with God	Preached and Built	Obedied	Conceived at 90	Looked forward	Looked forward	Looked forward
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Heb 11:17-22

- 17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son;
- 18 it was he to whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED."
- 19 He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.
- 20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding things to come.
- 21 By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.
- 22 By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones.



Sovereignty of God

What does it mean for God to be sovereign?

1. God has decided what will happen and has ordained everything that will happen from the greatest events down to the smallest of details.

Rom 11:33-36

33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

34 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS
COUNSELOR?

35 Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM
AGAIN?

36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the
glory forever. Amen.

Therefore:

1. All things have their source in God's eternal decrees.

2. All things are brought to pass by God's almighty power.

3. All things have as their ultimate goal God's

2. God actively brings about that which He ordains.

Eph 1:11

11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

If God does not determine everything that happens, we cannot speak of Him as being sovereign. Sovereign means 100%.

3. God has ordained that sin, evil, suffering, wickedness, disaster, calamity exist.

Ecc1 7:13-14

13 Consider the work of God,

For who is able to straighten what He has bent?

14 In the day of prosperity be happy,

But in the day of adversity consider --

God has made the one as well as the other

So that man will not discover (forecast) anything that will be after him.

Ex 4:11

11 And the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth?

Or who makes him dumb or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?

John 9:1-3

1 As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth.

2 And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?"

3 Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

Amos 3:6

6 Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it?

Lam 3:38

8 Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and evil come?

Prov 16:4

4 The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.

1 Sam 16:14

14 Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him.

Evil

That which is the opposite of God's character and demonstrates itself by actively opposing all that God is in His character (holy and righteous), His plan, and His purposes.

1 Kings 22:19-23

19 Micaiah said, "Therefore, hear the word of the Lord. I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by Him on His right and on His left.

20 "The Lord said, 'Who will entice Ahab to go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?' And one said this while another said that.

21 "Then a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord and said, 'I will entice him.'

22 "The Lord said to him, 'How?' And he said, 'I will go out and be a deceiving spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' Then He said, 'You are to entice him and also prevail. Go and do so.'

23 "Now therefore, behold, the Lord has put a deceiving spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets; and the Lord has proclaimed disaster against you."

Isa 45:6-7

6 I am the LORD, and there is none else.

7 I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.

Ps 105:25

25 He(God) turned their(Egyptians) heart to hate His people(Israel), To deal craftily with His servants.

Acts 4:27-28

27 "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,

28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.

Acts 2:22-24

22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know —

23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

24 "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

“When God ordained the death of his Son for my sin, he ordained that sin happen. It's a sin to murder the Son of God, yet nothing is clearer in the Bible than that God bruised his own Son. He willed that there be a Pilate with his expediency, a Judas with his betrayal, a Herod with his mockery, soldiers with their scorn, crowds and mobs crying, "Crucify him, Crucify him." All of that is the fulfillment of prophecy and the performance of the sovereign will of God. And every minute of it should be hated. Yet we should thank God for it, because it saved us.”

- John Piper

Isa 53:10

10 But the Lord was pleased
To crush Him, putting Him to grief;
If He would render Himself as a guilt offering,

"It implies no contradiction to suppose that an act may be an evil act, and yet that it is a good thing that such an act should come to pass. . . . As for instance, it might be an evil thing to crucify Christ, but yet it was a good thing that the crucifying of Christ came to pass."

-Jonathan Edwards

Job 1:20-21

20 Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped.

21 He said,

"Naked I came from my mother's womb,
And naked I shall return there.

The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away.

Blessed be the name of the LORD."

Job 42:11

11 Then all his brothers, and all his sisters, and all who had known him before, came to him, and they ate bread with him in his house; and they consoled him and comforted him for all the evil that the LORD had brought on him.

4. Is God the author of sin & evil?

Depends:

If you mean God brings about sin & evil to tempt man to get him to fall into sin, or to inject fresh evil into the heart of man, then “No”.

If you mean that God is the author of a plan that contains characters, plots, events, details, good things, evil things, sinful things, suffering, wickedness, disaster, calamity, then “Yes”.

1. God never commits sin.

2. God is not the positive cause of sin.

3. God cannot be blamed for sin.

4. God, on a micro scale, does not approve of sin.

He hates it and justly punishes it.

James 1:13

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

Luke 6:1-5

- 1 Now it happened that He was passing through some grainfields on a Sabbath; and His disciples were picking the heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands, and eating the grain.
- 2 But some of the Pharisees said, "Why do you do what is not lawful on the Sabbath?"
- 3 And Jesus answering them said, "Have you not even read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him,
4 how he entered the house of God, and took and ate the consecrated bread which is not lawful for any to eat except the priests alone, and gave it to his companions?"
- 5 And He was saying to them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

5. God does not ordain sin for its own sake.

- When God ordains a sinful action, it is not for the sake of the sin itself. Rather, it is for the sake of bringing about a greater good.
- When humans sin, we do it because we delight in the sin. Our intentions are for evil. But God does not ordain sin because He delights in it. Rather, His intentions are for good. He ordains evil because He delights in the good that He plans to bring out of it.
- There is therefore a “good” which is brought about and possible because God has ordained evil to exist. A creation without evil would be vastly inferior to what it now is. It is good that evil exists.

5. God is behind good and evil in different ways.

- He is behind good in a way that renders Him fully deserving of all of the credit for it, but He is behind evil in such a way that He deserves none of the blame for it.
- Sin proceeds from in the human heart, not God. God ordains its manifestation for His glory and to accomplish the good He has purposed.

"To put it bluntly, God stands behind evil in such a way that not even evil takes place outside the bounds of his sovereignty, yet the evil is not morally chargeable to him: it is always chargeable to the Secondary agents, to secondary causes [i.e., those who actually do it]. On the other hand, God stands behind good in such a way that it not only takes place within the bounds of his sovereignty, but it is always chargeable to him, and only derivatively to secondary agents...If this sounds just a bit too convenient for God, my initial response (though there is more to be said) is that according to the Bible this is the only God there is."

- D.A. Carson

“No doctrine in the whole Word of God has more excited the hatred of mankind than the truth of the absolute sovereignty of God. Opposition to divine sovereignty is essentially atheism. Men have no objection to a god who is really no God; I mean, by this, a god who shall be the subject of their caprice, who shall be a lackey to their will, who shall be under their control,—they have no objection to such a being as that; but a God who speaks, and it is done, who commands, and it stands fast, a God who has no respect for their persons, but doeth as he wills among the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of this lower world, such a God as this they cannot endure.”

- Charles Spurgeon

“God is more glorious for having conceived and created and governed a world like this with all its evil. If you would see God's glory and savor his glory and magnify his glory in this world, do not remain wavering before the sovereignty of God in the face of great evil. Take his book in your hand, plead for his Spirit of illumination and humility and trust, and settle this matter, that you might be unshakable in the day of your own calamity.”

- John Piper

“God uses evil for a greater good. His ultimate design is to glorify Himself, and all things work towards that end. The Bible does not give an exhaustive list of ways that God uses evil for His good purposes, but some of the ways include displaying His grace and justice, judging evil, saving sinners, shocking sinners so that they will repent, disciplining Christians, and vindicating Himself.”

- John M. Frame

“No doctrine is more despised by the natural mind than the truth that God is absolutely sovereign. Human pride loathes the suggestion that God orders everything, controls everything, rules over everything. The carnal mind, burning with enmity against God, abhors the biblical teaching that nothing comes to pass except according to His eternal decrees. Most of all, the flesh hates the notion that salvation is entirely God’s work.”

John MacArthur

“We know that God Himself never does that which is evil. Nevertheless, He also ordains whatsoever comes to pass . . . He does ordain that evil exists. If it does exist, and if God is sovereign, then obviously He must have been able to prevent its existence. If He allowed evil to enter into this universe, it could only be by His sovereign decision. Since His sovereign decisions always follow the perfection of His being, we must conclude that His decision to allow evil to exist is a good decision.”

- R.C. Sproul

“God may hate a thing as it is in itself, and considered simply as evil, and yet . . . it may be his will it should come to pass, considering all consequences. . . . God doesn't will sin as sin or for the sake of anything evil; though it be his pleasure so to order things, that he permitting, sin will come to pass; for the sake of the great good that by his disposal shall be the consequence. His willing to order things so that evil should come to pass, for the sake of the contrary good, is no argument that he doesn't hate evil, as evil: and if so, then it is no reason why He may not reasonably forbid evil as evil, and punish it as such.” - Jonathan Edwards

“It is a proper and excellent thing for infinite glory to shine forth; and for the same reason, it is proper that the shining forth of God's glory should be complete; that is, that all parts of his glory should shine forth, that every beauty should be proportionably effulgent, that the beholder may have a proper notion of God. It is not proper that one glory should be exceedingly manifested, and another not at all. . . .

Thus it is necessary, that God's awful majesty, his authority and dreadful greatness, justice, and holiness, should be manifested. But this could not be, unless sin and punishment had been decreed; so that the shining forth of God's glory would be very imperfect, both because these parts of divine glory would not shine forth as the others do, and also the glory of his goodness, love, and holiness would be faint without them; nay, they could scarcely shine forth at all.

If it were not right that God should decree and permit and punish sin, there could be no manifestation of God's holiness in hatred of sin, or in showing any preference, in his providence, of godliness before it. There would be no manifestation of God's grace or true goodness, if there was no sin to be pardoned, no misery to be saved from. How much happiness whatsoever he bestowed, his goodness would not be so much prized and admired. . . . so evil is necessary.”

- Jonathan Edwards

How Deep is the Sovereignty of God?

Sovereignty of God

Good

Disasters

Calamities

Sin

Evil

Gen 50:20

20 "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

“meant” (khaw-shav) = to purpose.

Rom 8:28

28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

“The infinite complexity of the divine mind is such that God has the capacity to look at the world through two lenses. He can look through a narrow lens or through a wide-angle lens. When God looks at a painful or wicked event through his narrow lens, he sees the tragedy or the sin for what it is in itself and he is angered and grieved. "I do not delight in the death of anyone, says the Lord God" (Ezekiel 18:32). But when God looks at a painful or wicked event through his wide-angle lens, he sees the tragedy or the sin in relation to everything leading up to it and everything flowing out from it. He sees it in all the connections and effects that form a pattern or mosaic stretching into eternity. This mosaic, with all its (good and evil) parts he does delight in (Psalm 115:3)”.
- Jonathan Edwards

Ps 115:3

But our God is in the heavens;
He does whatever He pleases.

