

## God Is In Absolute Control of Everything AND EVERYBODY

By Curtis Pugh

of Poteau, Oklahoma

Is God in control of this world and its people? Is God in control of government leaders? Is God at war with the devil? Is there a possibility that the devil may win? Does God have a plan? Is He able to do His will? Is God saving His chosen people? Or is He trying to save everyone? Logically we must say that God is a failure if He is trying to save all mankind for more are lost than are saved. We have God's revealed will in the Bible. It tells us what is sin and what is right. Men do not live according to that revealed will of God: they never measure up. But God also has a secret or unrevealed will: an eternal plan. To accomplish His secret will God allows men to do what they want as long as it pleases Him. God even allows men to sin in order to accomplish His unrevealed will. They can sin because God allows it. They may not know it, but they fulfill His predetermined secret will even in their rebellion against His revealed will, the Bible. They still sin. They were responsible for their sinful actions. But it was God that allowed them to sin and predetermined that they would do what they did – all in order to bring about the fulfillment of His plan and prophecies. The Bible in both the Old and New Testaments teaches that God is in absolute control of all things and all men. That is why Paul could write: **“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren”** (Rom. 8:28-29). If God is not in control, those two verses and others in the Bible could not be true. How could all things work together for good to God's children if nobody was in control bringing about those things that are good for them? Even loving human parents seek to be in control of all things that pertain to their children. They try to keep them from harm and to provide good things for them. And so it is that God has a plan: an unrevealed plan. He carries out that plan in every detail. Because God is in control of all things and all men, the Bible says two different times that wicked men were unable to do what they wanted because it was not yet God's predetermined time for them to do so. Speaking of the Pharisees trying to kill the Lord Jesus, the Bible says: **“Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come”** (John 7:30). Again in John 8:20 we read of a similar incident: **“These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come”**. Peter publicly preached to these very Jews about God's control and their sin in killing the Lord, saying: **“Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain”** (Acts 2:23). God determined beforehand the exact time and means of the death of the Lord Jesus. He even prophesied it. He did not force men to sin in slaying Him. The men did it because they were wicked. They were responsible. Peter not only preached about God's absolute control, he prayed about it in these words, **“The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done”** (Acts 4:26-28). Even wicked men do exactly what God has already predetermined to be done. God does not force them to do it. Yet they do that which God wants done. Wicked men killed Christ, but they did God's will. They violated the revealed will of God, but accomplished His secret will.

Back in the days of the prophet Daniel King Nebuchadnezzar said this about God: **“And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?”** (Dan. 4:35). The king learned those things by experience as well as revelation. God has His way in Heaven and among all people on the earth. That means nobody can stop God from doing what He wants to do. That means the inhabitants of the earth do His secret will. God works this way: He allows man’s wrath, for instance, to cause them to do what brings glory to Him, but restrains men from going beyond His will even in their anger. This is stated in the following verse: **“Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain”** (Ps. 76:10) It is written, **“...O LORD God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?”** (II Chron. 20:6). The Bible says God even controls tornadoes and storms: **“...the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm...”** (Nah. 1:3). All things and all men are in God’s control!

God says that He will do all His pleasure – whatever He wills, that He will do. This is clear from the following, **“...I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it”** (Isa. 46:9-11). God is bringing all things to pass just as He determined from the beginning. Whatever God purposes He does. God is able to do what He wants to do. In the last quoted verse it was prophesied that God would raise up a far away Gentile king to accomplish His will regarding the Jews. He did that very thing!

In Bible days, kings did as they pleased. They were sovereign. Their orders were carried out whether to kill or allow to live. And yet consider what God said about His control over kings: **“The king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will”** (Pro. 21:1). God controls the courses of rivers and He controls the hearts (desires, plans, will) of kings. They do as He pleases. In fact the Bible reveals that it is God who places kings, presidents and even dictators in power. God **“...removeth kings, and setteth up kings...”** (Dan. 2:21). God controls even wicked dictators. He is able to control all men and He does that very thing.

Do you believe the Bible? It says God is in absolute control of all things and all people. God does as He pleases – including saving whom He wants to save when He wants to save them. He is able to work both outwardly upon men and inwardly within men. Paul wrote of this, saying: **“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure”** (Phil. 2:13). God is absolutely in control! It is wickedness and blasphemy to say that puny men must “let God” do anything! God does not need you to “let Him” do anything! You cannot stop Him from doing what He pleases! He is the all powerful God! He is the Sovereign! Give Him the glory! He does all things well!