

Our Sovereign Lord

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November 3, 2013

Sermon in a sentence: God is Sovereign and in complete control of everything that comes our way!

Scriptures: 1 Tim. 11-16;

Over the past few weeks I have spent a lot of time thinking about some of the “big” issues of life, as my brother has been sick, and now diagnosed with an incurable disease. This is not unique to me. Many of you have had similar thoughts due to situations facing you and your circle of family, friends, colleagues and neighbours. Finances, health, family, politics, careers, even relationships and spiritual concerns can bring us to our knees, wondering about our future.

To address these concerns, there is one simple statement I hope will help us navigate these trying times: **God is Sovereign and in complete control of everything that comes our way!** God is in control. Total and complete control of everything that comes our way.

God is in control of my body. My workplace. My home. My finances. My health. God is in control of Canada. The economy. Every national head of state. All geopolitical conundrums.

God is in control of His church. He is in control of Faith Sanctuary. Every minister, every saint, every precious soul that walks through these doors.

God is in control of me. God is in control of you!

Of course, as free moral agents, God allows us to exercise our free will to take control of our own lives if we so choose. But when we ask Him to come into our lives and take control, He gladly takes the reins and exercises His sovereignty as Lord, Master, Father and King.

Let us consider a passage of scripture found in the Book of Revelation. In ch. 1 v. 8, John hears Jesus speaking – (possibly printed in red in your Bible), saying: *“I am the Alpha*

and the Omega.” In case you are not a Greek scholar, the translation is given at the end of verse 17: *“I am the first and the last.”* Going back to v.8, He is *“the Almighty”*.

The verses continue *“...After these things I looked, and, behold, a door standing opened in heaven and the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me saying Come up here and I will show you these things which must take place after this.*

Immediately I was in the Spirit and beheld a throne set in heaven and one sat on the throne.”

There is a throne in heaven with only one King who is sitting on that throne. He is the Alpha. He is the Omega. He is the beginning. He is the ending. He is the first. He is the last. He is the Almighty. From the beginning of time to the culmination of all things as we read in Revelation nothing has changed. So you can be totally comfortable everything is in his control. Nothing has changed. John looked and so this throne. As we go through the rest of the book you’ll see identified clearly that you have Jesus sitting on the throne of Heaven. And there was a description given in verse 3 which says,

“He who sat there was like a Jasper and a sardine stone in appearance and there was a rainbow around the throne. And appearance like an emerald round the throne were twenty four thrones and on the thrones I saw twenty four elders sitting clothed in white robes and they had crowns of gold on their heads. And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings and voices: seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne which are the seven spirits of God. Before the throne there was a sea of glass like crystal. And in the midst of the throne and around the throne were four living creatures full of eyes and front and back”

God doesn’t miss anything.

“The first living creature was like a lion second living creature like a calf third living creature had the face like a man and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. The four living creatures each having six wings were full of eyes around and within and they do not rest. Day or night. Saying Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty. Who was and is and is to come. Whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to

him. Who sits on the throne who lives forever and ever. The four and twenty elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever and cast their crowns before the throne saying You are worthy Oh Lord to receive Glory and honour and power. For You created all things and by Your will they exist and were created.”

God is on the throne. And He is in total control. Child of God please do not get into the mind set of those who don't have a Bible. We have a Bible in our hands. It's meant for us to read. We need to deliberately carve time out to read this word. By doing this we become immune from all the nonsense that is out there. God is in control. God is in control of my life.

I don't know how you feel about yourself. Did you awake with the assumption that you are in charge of the universe? If so, then you have a big problem. The truth is you aren't in control. There are times as far as control is concerned, I do have control of myself. What I will choose to do and of course part of that is I have chosen to turn the throne of my life over to Jesus Christ. He knows a lot better than I do. He knows how to run my life. So honestly, I'm not even in control of my own life now because I have willingly, gladly, given that over to Jesus. It is the smart choice to make. Therefore, in an attempt to be a smart, intelligent person I just gave Him control of my life because He does a much better job than I could ever hope to do. And so He is in control of my life.

I trust that you have that same testimony. He is in control of your life. You have given Him control. Lord I am yours. You do what you want to do. You just take my life, let it be consecrated Lord to thee. Take my moments and my days. Let them flow in ceaseless praise. You just take over. You have got my life. That's not even something to debate any longer. He is in control of my life. Therefore, since He is in control and he is the Alpha, the Omega, the beginning, the ending. Who was and is and is to come. The Almighty. That's who is in control of this life.

So whatever happens! God is in control. God is still on the throne. Many of us have trouble believing this because of various trials in our lives. The times when we are sick,

have financial needs and there are conflicts at work. In addition my kids are rebellious. But God is in control. We need to understand this. God is in control These are four simple words which we must internalize.

Don't fall into the trap of thinking that God's control is only shown in the good times or only when He is blessing you. *"The Lord is blessing me right now Feel his Spirit falling down"* You might be in a prison somewhere. You might have your hands and feet in chains. You can't move. You are in that jail around midnight and your back is beaten and raw. You are definitely not feeling a whole lot of *"The Lord is blessing me right now"* But Paul and Silas were not feeling good. I can guarantee you that they were not feeling good. They were chained, beaten, bloody and wounded. And midnight came and they said. Well that was yesterday. Now it's a brand new day.

"The Lord is blessing me right now

I feel his Spirit falling down

I may not be able to see

What the Lord has done for me

But the Lord is blessing me right now

God is in control. God is still on the throne. Nothing has changed. Don't be in any fear. Nothing is happening that's outside of His will and his plan and His understanding. He is in control of my life. Whether I am in stocks and bonds. Whether everything is rosy and pleasant. God is in control.

We live in a wonderful country of Canada. And people have been getting all excited because laws have been passed that are against the will and word of God. And there are people who think that as a result the church will be in trouble. But these people have not read and understand the amazing Bible. This Bible says that He is from everlasting to everlasting. There are great people who come and go. They are here for fifty, sixty, seventy, eighty, ninety and even one hundred years.. They have had a long life. How long have we been around? We have been about six thousand years now. These people come and they go. I could mention names of powerful leaders, who have come and they

have gone, and you wouldn't even know their names!. Child of God, please understand, God is not in trouble. There is no crisis in Heaven.

I often think of what it would be like to be God. to do I want. I can make planets and stars appear out of a microscopic, infinite density. But then one day, child of God, He made you. And then he said, "That is very good". He made man. And when He made woman, He was speechless. He even amazed Himself. This is God. So having an understanding of the God of the Bible, the child of God should not be afraid of some little king, some little emperor, some little president, some little Prime Minister who says *"although God says this I am going to do this."*

One of the funniest scriptures that I have read in the Bible is found in Psalms 2 *"Why do the nations rage and the people plot a vain thing?"* I believe that The Bible is the funniest book I have ever read. It is not like the slapstick stuff with which comedians entertain. The jokes in the Bible they sneak up on you over a time. God is eternal so His jokes sometimes they take a while.

"The kings of the earth set themselves and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord. And against His anointed saying let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us."

This is a joke. The kings of the earth get together. In their conferences, they are declaring God's laws null and void. They plan to show Him who really is in control. I consider this hilarious. He who sits in the heavens shall laugh. I imagine God saying *"Are you kidding me! Michael, Michael, come here Michael. Oh look at this! The kings of the earth have gotten together. The rulers have taken counsel together against the Lord and His anointed saying we are going to break their bands. We are going to take care of God. You know He thinks He is bad. He put these laws in place and told us to do. But we are going to change God's law."*

The Bible says *"He who sits in the heavens shall laugh."* The kings of the earth have gotten together to plot against God. These little puny puppets stand there and look into heaven and say we are going to take care of it. God is in control child of God. God is in

control of Canada. Whatever our earthly rulers choose to do, we have one responsibility, which is to pray for them and ask God to help them to see reality because they do some silly things at times. But it's not, for us just to criticize. We have a very proactive response, which is to pray. And certainly as you have opportunity, speak to your elected officials. Let them know whether what they are doing is right or wrong and make your voice heard.

Many of us are fearing that if the churches do not agree with the immoral earthly laws that our charitable status would be taken away, that we would have to pay taxes on our land and we would not get tax receipts for the tithes that we pay. We are even worrying that pastors will be forced to marry people against his will. I can assure you I will not be doing this. The kings of the earth get together and the rulers take counsel to. This is a joke child of God. These are "ha-ha" jokes.

Do not get wound up about what the world tries to do against our God because the scripture is still very firmly in place. *"Upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* You have heard many times that this is not a matter of the church being behind a wall and the gates of hell, (that term gates refers to the power and authority of a kingdom a city whatever the case maybe.) This is not talking about the power of hell attacking the church and we are hunkered down in our bunker trying to withstand the attack. This is talking about you going to the gates of hell. And if you want to be polite you may knock on the door before you break it down.

Sampson went into the city and they decided to enslave this man of God. They locked him in. They had the gates there. Sampson came and said "Oh they've locked me in the city. Isn't that a shame? Now what shall I do? Shall I literally break down their whole wall? Or will I be nice to them today and just take their gates?" So he was nice to them. But he was nice to them on this particular occasion. He simply took the gates out of the ground, pulled the whole thing up, walked off up the hill and deposited it. So if they were good carpenters, they could bring it back, put it in place, shim it, get it back in place. I think that was really nice of him.

Now you may choose to be that nice when you encounter the gates of hell. Or you may just be in a bad mood that day and you just break it down. I am not talking simply to be funny. I'm saying this so that somebody may understand. The Spirit of the Almighty God lives right here. And so the gates of hell cannot prevail against you. Now we need to individualize and personalize this stuff. Too many of us have these feelings that it is the church's responsibility. The church is you.

Let me give you one little story found in Revelation chapter 11. This is the book of endings, culmination of all things. And, and so when the church is taken out of this world, there is a seven year period of time called the tribulation. And we know that the Spirit of God will have left. People would not be receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost. They would not have the opportunities as we have to come into the house of God and worship freely because people of God will be gone and you have the anti-Christ the devil himself ruling and reigning on the earth. That is a very frightening proposition. However, God does not leave the world without a witness. Even in the midst of that in Revelation 11 we will start at verse 3. In the holy city in Jerusalem He sends two prophets. *"I will give power to my two witnesses.."* They are witnesses of the Almighty God. *"and they would prophesy for three and a half years that's one thousand, two hundred and sixty days. They'll be clothed in sackcloth. Now that's a sign of mourning. They will be in mourning because evil has been unleashed in this world and the Spirit of God has left.*

God has his witnesses who are there. He gives them power. These are two olive trees. Verse 5. *"If anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemy. And if anybody wants to harm them he must be killed in this manner."* People speculate that we are possibly talking about Moses and Elijah because the things that these two witnesses do are reminiscent of what Moses and Elijah did in their lives here on earth. Verse 6. *"These have power to shut heaven so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy."* There is Elijah again *"and they have power over waters to turn them to blood"* Now here is Moses striking the earth with plague as often as they desire.

These are two very dangerous prophets of God. These are serious men. They are dressed in mourning clothes because this is a sad time on the earth and God gives them power. He gives them power because He is in control. And they can terrorize this earth if they so choose. They can cause fire to fall from heaven. They can cause water to turn to blood. They can send plagues. These are very dangerous, dangerous men and prophets. And they are standing against the Anti-Christ, the beast, the false prophets. The image that he sets upon all of this . There are these two witnesses standing against a world of evil.

God sends him here and God gives him power to do what he wants to do. Now three and a half years go by and we get to verse 7. “ *When they finish their testimony...* ” they have a time allotted that they will testify and then they will finish their testimony “ *...when they finish their testimony the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them..* ”

If people make war against them and try to harm them we have read what they can do. Send fire from heaven. Turn water to blood. Send plagues.. But now the beast descends and makes war against them and what happens? The beast prevails and kills them. At this time many of us lament that God has lost another one and the witnesses are dead! Now because of three and a half years when they have really been showing the power of God on the earth, when the beast rises now and kills them, they're dead in the streets of Jerusalem. And what do people do. What does the scripture tell us? The next verse says that their dead bodies, will lie in the streets of the great city which Spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt. Where also our Lord was crucified' That's which city? So Jerusalem is referred to spiritually now as Sodom and Egypt. Sodom is talking about some vile sins, that were being committed there and of course Egypt always is typified sin. In that city where Jesus was crucified where all kinds of sinful acts have taken place, these prophets, these witnesses have now been killed.

Verse 9: “*Those from the peoples tribes tongues and nations will see their dead bodies three and a half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves, and those*

who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormenting those who dwell on the earth”

Now, our title is God is in control. For three and a half years they did what they needed to do. And then the Lord allowed them to be killed. And now they are lying in Jerusalem and the world declares a party. Everybody in the world sees them. Of course when John was writing this he had no idea but now you can be on your cell phone and watch television. And so people will be all over this world. The phone will beep and here comes this image and this is just two thousand and five. I don't know when the Lord's coming. But you can just imagine the technology. By then they would probably have glasses they wear and see it right in front of them., The whole world will see these witnesses dead in Jerusalem. They will go to Walmart. They will go to Zellers. They will go to the Bay. They will buy and send gifts. It will be like Christmas in July. They are having the time of their lives because these prophets are dead. The beast has won. This beast wants to set up worship in Jerusalem and be worshipped as God in the temple of God. And now the beast has conquered these witnesses, these prophets of God and the world throws a wild party. For three and a half days they don't even bury them. These bodies are lying in the streets of Jerusalem right where they fell. They lay there and people are partying.

Don't stop reading because Verse 11 says “ *Now after the three and a half days the breath of life from God entered them and they stood on their feet and great fear fell on those who saw them.*” The breath of life from God. Who's in charge here? Who's got control here? After three and a half days he said ‘Enough of that nonsense.’ And just as he allowed them to be defeated, now three and a half days later, he breathes into their nostrils just like Adam in Genesis chapters 1&2. He breathes into the nostrils and the breath of life from God enters into them and they stand up. And the people freak out. They are terrified! They are in the middle of taking another drink and these men stand up after three and a half days dead on the street. And they stand up and everybody sees this too. They get on their cell phone. They get it on their video glasses. They get it wherever they get it. Everybody in the world sees this. And then in verse twelve they

heard *“a loud voice from heaven.”* I mean this is a loud voice from heaven saying to them come up here. *“And they ascended to heaven in a cloud and their enemies saw them.”*

This is God who says, today I do this, tomorrow I do that. Then I'll change this here and I'll move that there and I'll do a little this and I'll do a little that. And he is working with six billion pieces at once and he is got it all under control. And he just says, “Don't sweat it. It's in control. So if it's my will you will be thrown to the lions and you will be sawn asunder, and you will be raised from the dead, and you will have a phenomenal financial increase, and you will be thrown in prison, and you will be delivered from prison.

Is there anyone who has ever tried to figure God out. Anyone wants to know how God does His stuff. I'd like you to understand. If God tried to explain his ways to you, he will fry your brain in a fraction of a second. Literally I mean it would pop out of your ears and your head would explode. If God tried to explain to you. Recently my twelve year old daughter has been trying to teach me how to play chess. On a chess board there are thirty little pieces on a board and I have serious problems in trying to figure out which piece to play. Can you imagine God trying to explain to you how to handle six billion people! Those little chess pieces they do what you tell them to do. But these six billion people do what they want to do. So now God has to work through this.. These six billion people are all over the place and when he says, “Do this.” They say no I'm going to do that. And when he moves here, they move there. You would like God to explain to you to handle six billion pieces and all the pieces have an independent mind and they can do what they want to do. But you have a plan, of what you are going to do. And you have to make sure that plan comes to pass. And so not only do you have to deal with all the six billion combinations and permutations. But you have already told them what you are going to do because you are God so you said now this is how its going to go and there are six billion people trying to mess up what you are going to do. But your word has to come to pass.

God has told us that He will do nothing before revealing it to His servants the prophets. Everything he's going to do he's told us. And you think you are bad. You try to change

his plan and there are six billion of us going six billion different ways and God is in control.

God is in control. He is in control of your life., He is in control of this country. He is in control of this church. Now you might not been able to figure out what all is happening within these four walls. But there's just one thing I need you to know. God is control. And God is still on the throne. I don't worry about the future. There's just one thing I know. God is still on his throne.

God is still on the throne. God is the almighty. God is in control. Don't worry. Don't fret. My God cannot fail. Everything that He decides to do He will do. Whatever He wants to happen will happen in my life, in my country, in my world, in this church. God is in control. God is in control

If you have never given Jesus Christ control of your life I would like to encourage you to do that right now.. What we read in the book of revelation simply opens our understanding to the fact of who Jesus is. He is the Almighty God. He is from the beginning to the end. He is the one who created all things. And for His pleasure all these things were created. We as humans being has messed the perfect world he has created for us. But in his love and in His mercy, He has fixed it up. Now we don't see it all perfect now, but the day is coming soon when he will get rid of this old earth get rid of this mess. And those who have given Him control of their lives, He will take to the new heaven and the new earth to be with Him forever in glory.