

A scenic sunset over a body of water, likely a lake or bay. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm golden glow across the sky and water. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds in shades of blue, orange, and yellow. In the foreground, there are dark, jagged rocks and some seaweed or driftwood scattered in the shallow water. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

ON GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

PRENNIAL CONTEST: AM I TRYING TO KNOCK IT OFF, ONCE AGAIN, IN A MORE SUBTLE AND BEHIND THE BACK WAY. TODAY ??

“Sovereignty”

To exercise a form of governing over a people, where there is one, and only one, Supreme and Absolute Lord.

FUNDAMENTALLY SPEAKING ...

- *This lord owns everything, and everybody in their kingdom, ultimately.*
- *This king is the one that sits at the very top of the triangle, -with all power, all authority, and all dominion over the all the people of that 'kingdom'.*
- *The people can make choices, but these choices and judgements are still subject to the Sovereign will of the one true, unified and perfect God.*
- *There are no options, nor debates, no Parliaments, no Congresses, where this king commands the people.*

“Sovereignty”

In the book of Genesis, we see ‘**God**’ presented as the **one absolute Sovereign** of all of the people, -- those who are the children of God, and those who are not --ask the people outside of the ark --

*Just look at the flood contest. Who was affected? Just the Hebrew nation?
...or all the nations and all the peoples?*

CONTEST DEFINES ALL RELATIONSHIPS, all of the time:

“He who controls the fundamental definitions, controls all things.”

Niccola Machiavelli

Sovereignty

The contest of authority began in the very beginning, at the tree, there in the garden of Eden.

- 1st. Satan sought to dethrone God and set up an alternative state.*
- 2nd. Adam and Eve were tempted to follow this alternative idea.*
- 3rd. Both then sinned, both ate; -- both challenged God's sovereignty.*
- 4th. Both realized that the contest with God's Sovereignty had failed.*
- 5th. The consequences of the contest are still there for all to see.*

...but this we all already know...

Sovereignty: Education Review



The book of Genesis is God's tool of teaching the former slaves, as they endured their time in Egypt, that God was the power, and the authority, and the absolute Lord over all mankind. He does this by using three different names of God in the first three chapters of Genesis: "Elohim", the God of all power, "Yahweh", the God of all Authority, and "Adonai", the God of all majesty.



| | | |
|--------|-----------------|-----------|
| ELOHIM | "ALL POWER" | GENESIS 1 |
| YAHWEH | "ALL AUTHORITY" | GENESIS 2 |
| ADONAI | "ALL MAJESTY" | GENESIS 3 |



Genesis thus trains the eye to see what is true and where to find the Sovereign in every contest.

Each story given in Genesis opens up the picture of God just one more page at a time.

Sovereignty: Contested

The book of Genesis, the book of beginnings, thus tells us, repeatedly, that when that man rebels, he principally rebels against God's Sovereignty, that man comes out the big loser, every time!

- THE CONTEST THERE AT THE EDENIC TREE,
- THE CONTEST ON THE WORLD STAGE BEFORE THE FLOOD,
- THE CONTEST AT THE TOWER,
- THE CONTEST AT THE HARAN CAMP,
- THE CONTEST AT THE SACRIFICE on the Mount,
- THE CONTESTs IN THE FAMILY,
- THE CONTEST OF EGYPT,

... and then in Exodus,

- THE DAILY CONTESTs OF SLAVERY,
- THE CONTEST OF THE PLAGUES,
- THE CONTEST OF THE WILDERNESS,

- ... and in Joshua, ...EVEN DOWN TO THE CONTEST BEFORE TINY AI.

Sovereignty: Is Continually Contested

Sovereignty: Concluded

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO TRULY UNDERSTAND 'SOVEREIGNTY'?

Contest after contest, after contest: legalism versus self will, after ultra legalism, after self will, and after even more self-ism. - All the contests keep on showing that God is the supreme One, the SOVEREIGN, not little ole man ...

MUFASA !!!

"King" / "Sovereign"
in the Manazoto language



Sovereignty: Continuity

WHAT DOES IT TAKE? Contest after contest: legalism versus self will, after legalism, after more self will, after more self-ism. -All the contests keeps on showing that God is the supreme One, not man.....

... and then
the Sovereign,
- God -
sent His Son.....



The Bible according to Disney:
"The Lion King"

Sovereignty: Conclusion



Today, 'Who, and or 'What',
actually controls you and
your dedication to God –
Jesus?

What actually gets first priority?

....so, *WHAT HAPPENED TO SCAR?*,

- The Pretender, - The Brother To Mufasa, - The Usurper?

He was **defeated** and **vanquished** into the **black abyss** ,,,,, He had lost. He did not become 'King'.

→ → But, GOD WON !!!

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD: THE CORPORATE LESSON

The first great question is always, "Who is in charge?" In WW1 this basic question was a constant problem between all of the major commanders. Haig fought with Foch, and Foch fought with Petain, and Pershing fought with them all. There was no centralized leadership until this problem was sorted out and several million lives were lost to this squabble. In the end neither politics, national prestige, nor finances won the day. What won the day is that everyone was running out of soldiers. Until authority is achieved, every man is the supreme general and disaster always awaits. God, The Sovereign, is the one that is **PRIMARY VOICE OF AUTHORITY**.....that is the where first point, a common language, really becomes its own definer. **SPEAK FOR GOD.**

I. Those Definitions of Sovereignty Reviewed

1. - **FACT**- THE VERY FIRST CONCEPT TO BE ESTABLISHED, IN EVERY GROUP, IS ALWAYS, "**JUST WHO IS REALLY IN CHARGE HERE?**" This is true in every group setting, always.
2. **Sovereignty** is the defining of the roles of supreme and absolute master, and then the setting up of the lines of 'command' that defend the one supreme commanding person, or ideal, giving position to the servant.
3. "Sovereignty", or "Lordship", is the establishing of the king and His dynasty. The question of "Who is in overall control?" is thus linked directly to the question of "Who are the enemies of this crown? - **and who are the servants ??**"
4. The idea of **sovereignty** is essential for all of us to know and to promote as the ultimate power and majesty in the world.
5. Yet, in the church today, the pull of personal options and choices with all personal likes and dislikes being the single greatest contributing factor in the development of the communities in which we live.
6. This is as true of Christian communities as it is of Moslem communities and all ethic based communities. In Australia we tend to choose to let people alone and to do their own thing.
7. **SHOULD WE DO SO AS OUR OBEDIENCE TO THE ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD IN ALL THINGS? SHOULD WE EVERY PLEAD THE CASE "DO NOT JUDGE ME?"**
8. **So ... would Adam and Eve agree, as they buried Abel? How would Jacob have responded to his other sons selling Joseph? How would God look on things if we tried to set up some one else to Be God? Would He say that that was a coup d'etat?**

II. What Is The 'Why' Behind Sovereignty

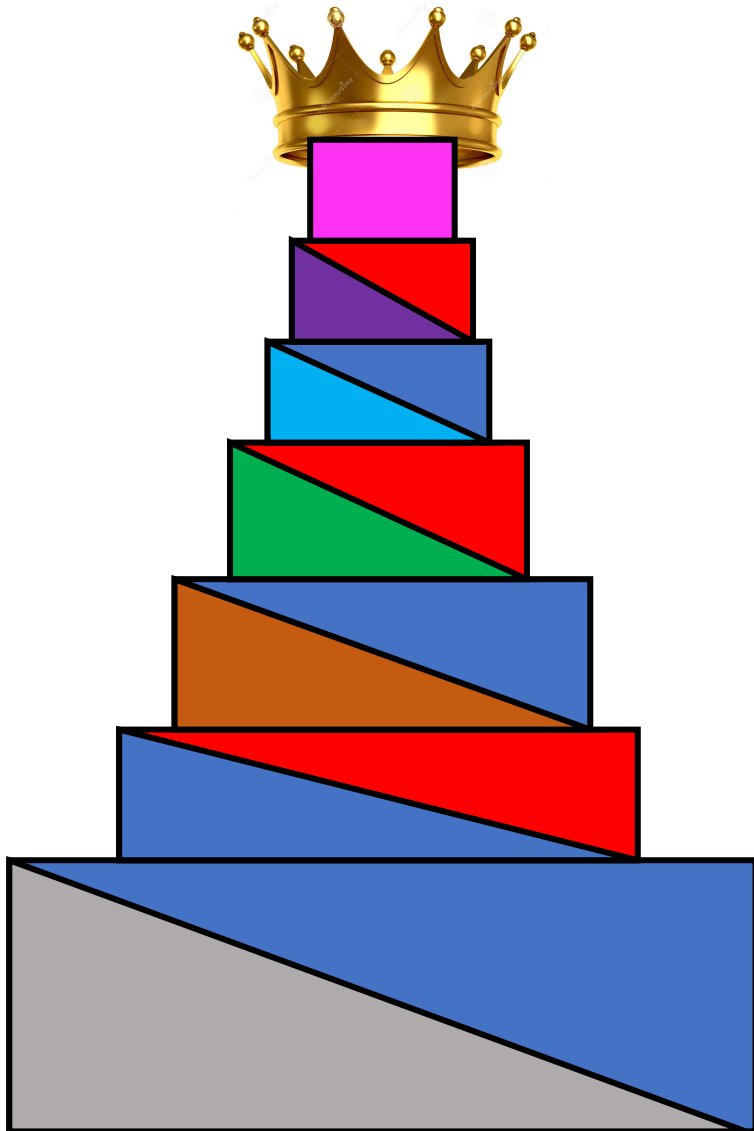
1. The purpose for sovereignty is two fold: to give God the glory He deserves and to give to man the guide to lead man back from the brink of **self-supremacy**.
2. This is where the Tower of Babel comes into our basic education curriculum.
3. **Why do you think, really think, the tower was included in Moses' lesson to the former slaves?**
4. Is this just an account of 'the historical sequence of a very important events, or is there a much more significant point to be made here?
5. What we know:
 - A. The people are moving, in mass to the 'east', not 'west', together.
 - B. They have a common direction, a common language, a common vocabulary, and a common mindset, with a common sense of an ever-growing sense of self importance.
 - C. This is a challenge to God's absolute / total sovereignty.
 - D. For Sovereignty to exist there can be only one King and no regents! [God and Jesus are one, not two totally independent beings]
 - E. By God confusing the languages He reasserts His sole Sovereignty and His singular plan.
 - F. **There are thus no rivals left to try another coup d'etat. [too many in O.T.]**

III. The Gift Guidance As The Parent - King

1. The advice of **II Peter 3:1f**:
 - A. FIRST: The Reminder: Remember all of the teachings of God !!! **II PETER 3:1-2**
 - B. Second: Coup d'etat's have always been happening, from the Garden on down, including the Tower. **II PETER 3:3-7**
 - C. THIRD: The Sovereign said He will return, on His time schedule **II PETER 3: 8-9**

DISCUSSION ---

1. **What do you see as the benefits of the tower for the Christian today?**
2. **Where is the love and tolerance factors in the tower episode?**
3. **How does this passage from Peter translates down to us today?**
4. **How does this affect the idea of absolute sovereignty?**
5. **What are we to learn from the tower and the Lord's return in Coffs Harbour?**



**OUR CROWNING GLORY !!
WE ARE THE NEW GODS !!**

WE DID IT !!

ONE MORE – ONE MORE

WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO !!

CALL THE PLASTERERS !!

GET MORE BRICKS !!

AHH, GOOD PLAN !!

**WHAT A GREAT IDEA !!
GO GET THE MASONS
READY !!**

**WHERE NO
VOICE SPEAKS
FOR GOD'S
SUPREMACY, "I"
BECOME GOD
AND THE NEW
SPIRITUAL
AUTHORITY, OF
ALL AUTHORITY.**

**AS THEY SAY, "CROWNS ARE NOT MADE OF LITTLE
RHINESTONES AND OF PHYSICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS.
THEY ARE MADE OF DISCIPLINE, DETERMINATION AND A
HARD TO FIND ALLOY CALLED COURAGE, MARRIED TO
THE WISDOM-POWER OF A FULLY LOVING AND TOTAL
SUBMISSION TO THE DIVINE GOD OF THE UNIVERSE IN
ALL THINGS.**

One of my favorites characters of the Old Testament: comically uncouth but fully dedicated to God.

1. WHAT DO WE ALL REALLY KNOW ABOUT GIDEON.

→ → HIS STORY IS IN JUDGES 6-8 ← ←

FACT # 1: His proper name is Gideon, but others also call him Jerubbabel, which means “He who contends with Baal”.

FACT #2: He is from the very small farming town of ‘Ephrah’, or ‘Grain Shockers’ Creek.....out by ‘no-where’s-ville’.

FACT #3: He is from the family of Joash, pf the Abiezrite clan of the tribe of Manasseh, a very rough group indeed.

FACT #4: He grew up right after the judgeship of Deborah, the only female to judge of all Israel. She was a warrior-judge, and that impacted on the people by ‘gender disregard issues’.

FACT #5: Deborah judgeship was one that was modestly successful for a time, but in the twenty years since her rule, the Israelites again lost sight of who the real Sovereign was and became increasingly accepting of foreign ideas and ideals. This allowed the Midianites, a desert people with a reasonably strong core set of values, principles, and military strength to subdue the Israelites, -yet again, although it is more of a **harrowing** than a full fledged occupation.....“**WE WANT WHEN WE WANT!!**”

FACT #6: The Midianite over-lords said all belongs to us and we will take all we want, if there is anything left over, we just may want that too. It was nutritional genocide. **A starving people do not fight back.** [aka: [The Sino-Colonization of Australia via the purchase of large tracts of farm-land](#)]

FACT #7: Gideon is mentioned in Hebrews 11 in the hall of fame for his faith and stalwart devotion to Yahweh. [ASIDE: He had 70 sons and lots of wives, however.]

FACT #8: Gideon grew up tough and resilient. He knew where the power really was and he obeyed. Was there just blind obedience in cutting the numbers down so much? ...I do not think so, but there was trust and vision as to what would come and a willingness to face the troubles that’d arise.

FACT #9: God sent a prophet to Israel to remind them of His, and only His, absolute sovereignty over the people. God informed the people of the right path and the wrong path was well known to all. To follow the wrong path is to flatly deny God’s sovereignty.

FACT #10: Joash was the correct-minded sort of father, but it was Gideon who defended after having **decided, declared,** and now acts to **defend** God’s Supremacy.

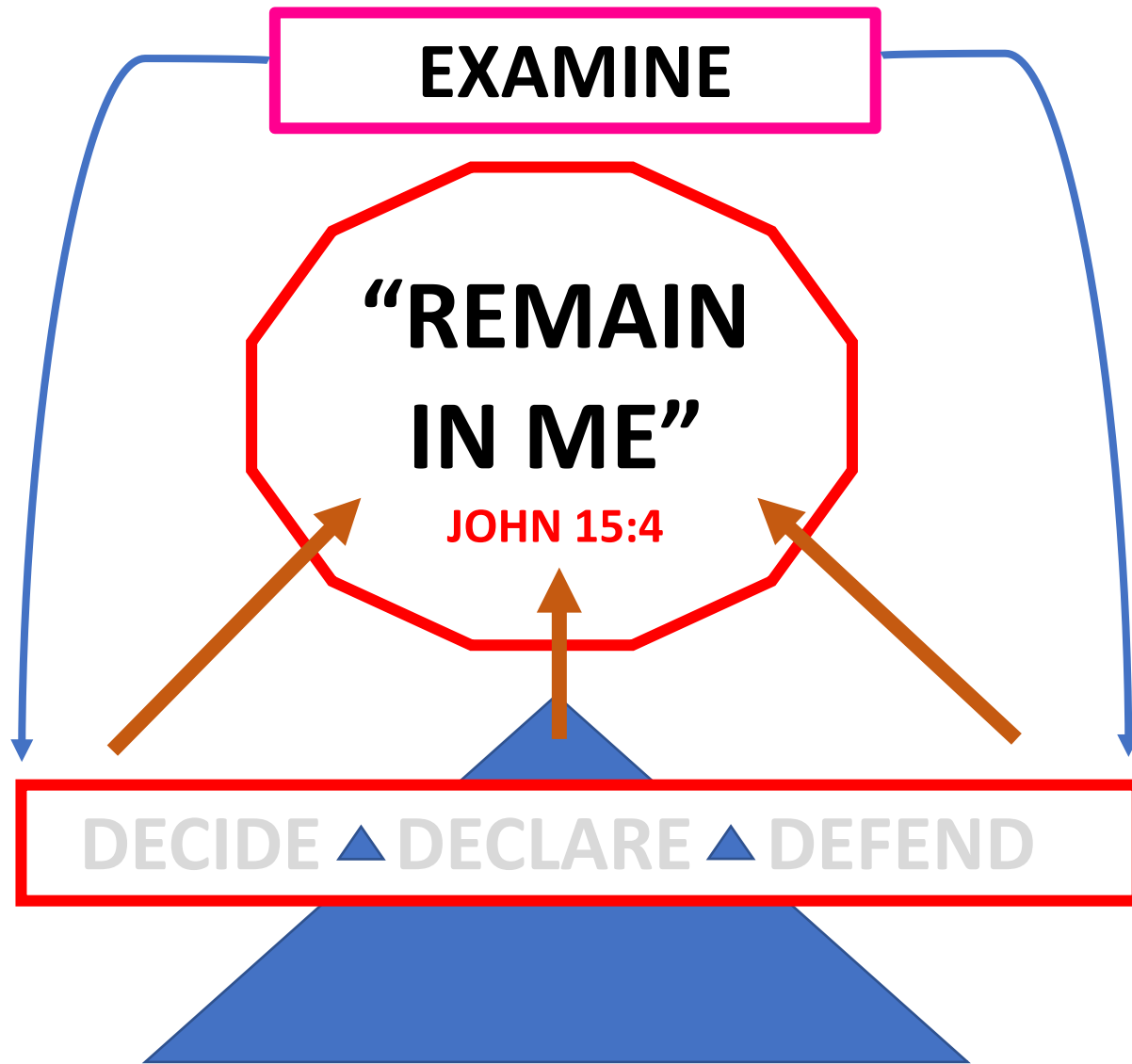
1. -??? So, what does this all say about Gideon’s view of God’s absolute sovereignty - What does it teach us ???-
2. The principle text is not the war against the Midianites, but the events surrounding the temple of Baal-Asherah, and the statements that surround the story of Gideon and the fleeces.
3. It is in these events where we see the staunchness of the whole family of Gideon. We are always bolstered or defeated by those closest to us, such as family.
4. God was this families only God, when “push came to really out and out shoving !!!”

2. GIDEON’S PERCEPTION ABOUT SOVEREIGNTY.

A man like Gideon does not just happen. A heart like Gideon’s is made over time and stress, with more time and more stress to harden the whole heart into a true steel, one that is capable of sharpening others into steel.
“Steel does sharpen steel, and it is the only thing that can sharpen the ‘soul-man.’” Proverbs 27:17

Returning to Judges 6:1 Things that sharpen us today.

1. We live in the middle of a war zone, right here in Coffs. It is the war between God and the pretender, Satan / Lucifer... AWARENESS IS THE FIRST STEP IN DEFENSE.
2. To be aware we but need to know God and anything that is not of God, or godliness, is sin and must be opposed, WHERE EVER IT IS FOUND!!
3. YES, there is the fundamentals of grace, but grace is not a license to do what ever “I”, the new sovereign, wants to do.
4. Israel did evil and evil has a price to be paid. God and the people knew this. Judges 6:1-6 Israel was laid low, with the primary problem being a denial of God’s Lordship /Sovereignty.
5. At the fleece, we see Gideon knowing the supremacy of God, and wondering ‘what is going on to bring these Midianites here?’
6. READ AGAIN Judges 6:15-27
7. then READ JUDGES 6:28-33 JOASH’S DEFENCE
8. THEN READ Judges 6: 34ff and the fleece– confirmation requested and confirmed therefore go to war, now



Mark 14:61-62 But Jesus remained silent and made no reply. Again the high priest questioned Him, “Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?”

“I am, said Jesus, “and you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming with the clouds of heaven.”

2 Peter 1:16-17

For we did not follow cleverly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “**This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased**” —
¹⁸ and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD: THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR CHOICES

Joshua, the son of Nun, was an Ephraimite, a warrior among warriors. He was not a 'prayer warrior'. He was a man of action and leadership. His whole life was based on his expressed devotion to the Lord God, Jehovah. His example was defined in part by his observations of Moses, but most of it, I suspect, was just because that was the kind of heart he had beating inside of him. **He is still an example to all of us: a soldier of the Sovereign !!**

NOTE: "Prayer warrior" is not a bad thing, if we can get beyond the Pentecostal double talk...

I. "Choose you this day whom you will serve.."

Dictum #1 -- WE ARE, AND OUR LIVES WILL ALWAYS REFLECT, THE CHOICES WE MAKE, EVERYDAY.
THIS IS OUR SELF, **DECISION** MADE, DESTINY.

Joshua: The Man – What We Know

1. One of the 12 spies, but 1 of 2 who thought they could take the land
2. The chosen successor to Moses
3. The general who fought at Jericho and at Ai. – He knew victory and defeat, but remained loyal to God.
4. We know him by his Greco-Hebraic name rather than by 'Hoshea', his Judaic name.
5. He was born in Egypt, and probably remembered the ten plagues and the time of slavery. He was at the rock when Moses struck it. He had gathered mana and quail.
6. **HE WAS NOT INTIMIDATED BY THE PEOPLE OF CANAAN AND SAW NO NEPHILIM - NO GIANTS!**
7. His whole life was a series of decision-contests.
8. **-He had always chosen JEHOVAH and put himself down as a servant to the Sovereign, no matter what. It was just who he was.**
9. Joshua had made the decision of being a loyal servant of God at an earlier age. He never wavered really from that decision.
10. **His purpose was to help the people do the same**

II. "But as for me and my house we will serve"

Dictum #2 -- WE WILL FOLLOW THE PATH THAT THOSE CHOICES DICTATE, WHETHER WE WANT TO OR NOT.
THIS IS THE COURSE OF OUR CONSTANT **DECLARATION**.

Sovereignty demands subordination, and subordination demands total service with absolute loyalty.
And all of this demands the best personal clarity within our choices, or else it is eventually going to become sin-filled.

THUS OUR DECISION NEEDS TO BE **VOCALIZED**, frequently :

a naturally good idea.

1. Thus our vocalization needs to be reviewed and our recommitment given, periodically.
2. Confession is not a one time occurrence, but rather it is a life-style of honest review and renewal .
3. Joshua continually made anew, and then declared his decision to the people. These are some examples:
 - A. Joshua 3:9 - **4:24**
 - B. Joshua 6:26-27
 - C. Joshua 8:30-35
 - D. Joshua 24:16-22
4. These examples come from the people and from Joshua. They are different from one another, but in each case, they are the voiced decision of the whole and they are renewals of their original decision. They declare the Lord God as Sovereign and accept their position as His servants, without question.
5. **There will be hardships, tears, and pain yet to come but these will strengthen the resolve of the 'nation'.**

III. → The Benefits of God's Lordship

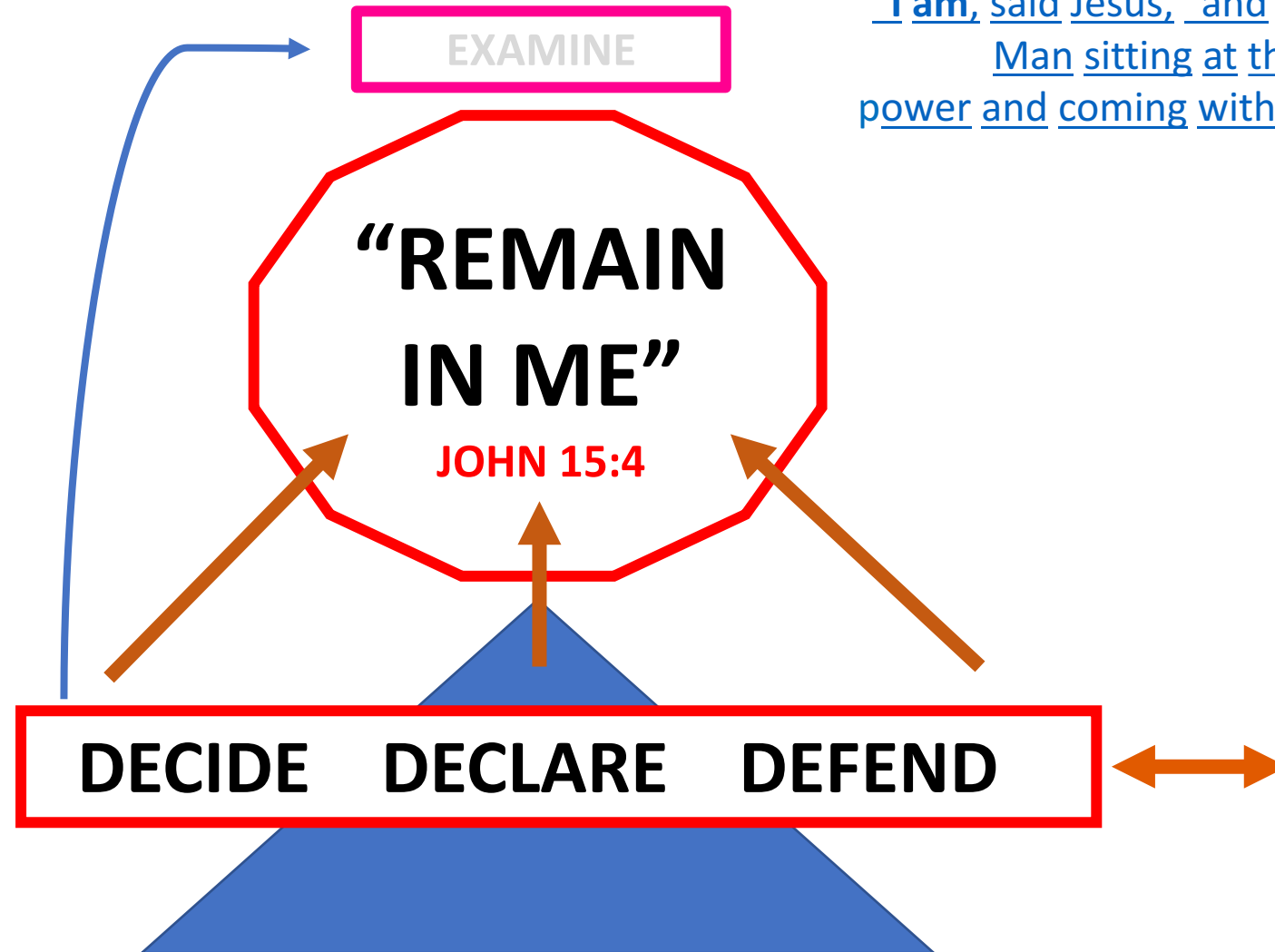
Dictum #3 – CHOOSING GOD CARRIES WITH IT TEARS OF PAIN AND TEARS OF JOY, THEREFORE PREPARE!
THIS IS THE CORE OF OUR EVER READY **DEFENCE**.

1. **Ephesians 1:3** "All blessings come from Him", thus endowment
2. **Direction and purpose**
3. **Strength and confidence** in the coming victory.
4. **Knowable Belief** based on the higher power
5. A sense of **true cause** to live for, above the common elements such as mere relationships
6. A complete **sense of true community** with the Christian family
7. Production of **real fruit** – no fruit, then something is wrong with the Lordship idea.
8. Continual growth in the **knowledge of God**
9. Continual growth in the **power factor** inside of me
10. A **steadfastness of life and will** / no temptation to leave can overcome me
11. A continual increase in the positive realities of true **patience**, based on God and not on man
12. An ever increasing sense of **real joy** in just meaning-filled service to God without any of the
13. **No diversions** of man hindering my life walk
14. **→ John 15:-4-5 → real and productive life**

Mark 14:61-62 But Jesus remained silent and made no reply. Again the high priest questioned Him, “Are

You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?”

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Read: ISAIAH 9:6-7 DANIEL 7:14 ZECHARIAH 9:10 MATTHEW 8:27 EPHESSIANS 1:22 I PETER 3:22 ACTS 2:36

I. What Is Dominion? --How far does it reach?--

The long Road From
Justice To The Light
Bulbs

1. In Genesis 1:26-28, Adam is given 'dominion' over the earth. He is to subdue it and develop it and its potential. *This is the first fundamental.*
2. This is renewed to Noah in Genesis 9:6-7.
3. 'Dominion', the Hebrew translation of 'radha', means to subdue, marshal, and control for another, a much higher power. It is the general directive given to mankind to be the servant-organizer of all other elements of creation.
4. "Radha" is never an aggressive or violent act. It is not like the 'cop-on-the-beat', but more like the neighborly 'Family Patriarch type' who while definitely in charge, is just that very helpful and benevolent wise man, who treats everything as if it is a very valuable resource that needs looking after *from the unaware majority*.
5. The 'Man of Radha' is thus a servant who serves all the people-elements of creation, **for the God-King-Owner.**
6. -John 3:16 says "For God so loves the 'cosmos' that He gave His beloved son..." All things are summed in Jesus!!!, but paramount is the salvation process.
7. The One who holds the 'Dominion Together' is always the ultimate one that designates each of us, in a particular way, **to be His agent**, just as Jesus served.
8. We who are at the apex of creation are charged with thus being **wise custodians**. This limits us in the way in which we exercise ourselves in creation, **but always bringing Him the glory.**
9. -**The Ultimate dominion is God, the Sovereign Lord. He who mops the floor and changes light bulbs voluntarily.**

II. If God Has All Dominion, Why Is There Pain, Suffering, And Catastrophe?

1. God has all dominion and authority: Psalms 22:28
2. But God, in just being the only one in the position is the one who is ultimately responsible for every individual thing. That is what the dominion does.
3. God sees all, knows all, controls all, and holds unlimited power, way above all events in this world.....right?????????
4. So, how come come a hurricane like 'Harvey'? How come some are born deformed? How come some children go to bed hungry and sick? **Can't we lay the blame at the chair of the one who the Ultimate Dominion?**
5. This the last great question mankind can ever ask.
6. The most common answer is the "Fall of Man", in Genesis 3.
7. Justin Brierley said, "Perhaps the most common 'thought-filled' response is known as the 'free will defence'. After all, where does most of the evil in this world come from? Much of it is a direct consequence of our wrong choices as human beings. Yet one of the greatest goods that God has given us is free will – the ability to choose between right and wrong. The problem is that many people choose to do evil rather than good." The blame is thus still on man's choices and lifestyles. **FREE WILL MISTAKES ANSWER A LOT !**

Don't get caught in the too quick, and too easy trap.... Remember the question Jesus' about the blind man's reason for his calamity

II. If God Has All Dominion, Why Is There Pain, Suffering, And Catastrophe?

8. So, what about those cases where there is no "will explanation" about the blame? **WHERE IS THE 'DOMINION' THEN?**
9. CORRIE TEN BLOOM, a survivor of Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp said, " 'You can never learn that Christ is all you need, until Christ is all you have.'
10. What she is saying is that suffering calls people to God. Look at Job, at Daniel, at Jeremiah, at Peter, at Paul. → They all were called from some element of suffering to a better life with God.
11. Justin Brierley also notes that, in his life, the extra difficulty in the birth of his child taught him, and his wife, that that which is broken in my eyes, may be a wonderful blessing in God's eyes.
12. POINT: The problem with pain in man's eyes is not always the fault, or lack of attention, of the vineyard owner / Dominion.
13. More will always need to be aid on this element of Sovereignty. But think first on this fact: God, who holds the Dominion, knows when a Robin falls and He cares much more for you !!!

III. How Should I Respond to God's Total Dominion?... Submissively !!!



Why Pain

Nehemiah 9:6
Exodus 20:11
Genesis 1:31

I Corinthians 13:12
Jeremiah 17:9

*"All Normal Adults Are Sinners And Therefore 'Guilty' Of
Something. Romans 3:23"*

*"...Therefore best to get things right with God while we
can. ?!?!"*

Fall Of Mankind [Start]

Heaven Filled Focus

God Still Educating

Natural Selection

My Free Will Choices

Training and Testing

Granting of Justice

Training in Caring

Disguised Blessings

Renew - Soil Strength

Disease-Control

Training in Caring

Happenstance

General Tempering

Maintaining Humility

Appreciation of Joy

CLARIFICATION OF SOVEREIGNTY



Why Pain??

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*"All Normal Adults Are Sinners And Therefore 'Guilty' Of
Something. Romans 3:23"*

*"...Therefore best to get things right with God while we
can. ?!?!"*

TRUE, BUT NO
HEART IN IT.



**YOU
REMAIN
IN ME !!**

JOHN 15:4



Why Pain??

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Exodus 20:11
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*"All Normal Adults Are Sinners And Therefore 'Guilty' Of
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TRUE, BUT NO
HEART IN IT.



**YOU
REMAIN
IN ME !!**

JOHN 15:4



... IT SAYS THAT PHARAOH KEPT HARDENING HIS HEART UNTIL GOD SHATTERED IT. If you place a kilo of butter and a kilo of clay on the same board, side by side, in 40 degree sunlight. What happens to the clay? What happens to the butter? What really happened to the heart of Pharaoh? What finally happened to Pharaoh Amenhotep 1 at the Red Sea? Who won the day? There is no single answer to pain and suffering and the justice of it all. There is a Lord, who loves totally, is the absolute Sovereign, and the epitome of caring. It is not God who does not care, it is man who loses sight of the Sovereign.



**Fact: IF THERE IS NO SHATTERED HEART, THERE IS JUST
NO HEART FOR GOD.**

**THIS IS THE POINT OF ACTS 2 AND THE SERMON ON
PENTECOST**



If you have any thought or comments that will assist this study, please send them to Lee M. Ancell at lancell50@optusnet.com.au