

## Why? A Series in Theodicy Part 4: God's Sovereignty

### Discussion Guide – June 15, 2025

After that the end will come, when he will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having destroyed every ruler and authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet. <sup>26</sup> And the last enemy to be destroyed is death. 1 Cor. 15:24-27

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem... how often I have longed to gather your children together... but you were not willing. Matthew 23:37

Our Father in heaven,  
may your name be kept holy.  
<sup>10</sup> May your Kingdom come soon.  
May your will be done on earth,  
as it is in heaven. Matt. 6:9-10

#### Quotes:

"God's will is whatever God does, and whatever God permits—everything that happens, God either caused or allowed, and in that sense, willed." John Piper

"If there is one single molecule in this universe running around loose, totally free of God's sovereignty, then we have no guarantee that a single promise of God will ever be fulfilled." R.C. Sproul

"Your god is my devil." Jonathan Edwards to George Whitefield

*"God's sovereignty is not an excuse or a reason for the bad things that happen in our lives: God is light and there is no darkness in Him. No one will ever convince me that God made my babies die or that God killed our friend with cancer or that a hurricane is an act of God as punishment for sin. Instead, I think sovereignty is the promise that it will all be healed in the end. Sovereignty means that all will be held. That God is at work to bring redemption and reconciliation, that somehow at the end of all things, we don't escape from the goodness that pursues us, the life we are promised, the love that redeems." – Sarah Bessey*

#### Discussion Questions

1. Where do you currently land on the "sovereignty spectrum"? After hearing the sermon, where do you find yourself leaning—more toward God meticulously controlling everything or toward God granting meaningful human freedom?
2. What do you think is at stake in how we define "God's will"? The sermon suggested that God's "will" might better be understood as his intention or desire, rather than whatever happens. How does that shift your understanding of how God operates in the world—or of unanswered prayer, suffering, or injustice?
3. What does it mean to say God redeems suffering rather than causes it (Bessey's quote). What would it look like in your life—or in our world—if we leaned more fully into *that* kind of sovereignty?