

Character Profile: "My God is in control!"

- What the world says: "Man is in control! Man is the highest power!"
- What the Bible says: "God controls everything!"

The Bible Proclaims that God is in control.

Psalm 18:30-32 As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him. 31 For who is God save the Lord? or who is a rock save our God? 32 It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect.

Psalm 115:3 But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.

Isaiah 46:9-11 Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 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: 11 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.

Isaiah 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Romans 11:33-34, 36 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! 34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?... 36 For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

Eph. 1:11-12 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will 12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

Col. 1:16-17 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

1 Chron. 29:12 Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.

Isaiah 14:24 The Lord of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand:

1. Look for key/ repeating words in these verses. Do I see any themes or common ideas?

2. What do these verses teach me about who God is?

3. How do I think incorrectly about God in this area?

4. How does God view me in light of these verses?

* **Meditate** on the verses on the left and journal any helpful thoughts here:

The Bible Displays that God is in control.

* Read through two clear examples of God displaying His Sovereign Control.

Daniel 4:16-17, 24-25 Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him. 17 This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men...24 This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the **most High**, which is come upon my lord the king: 25 That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will...30 The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty? 31 While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. 32 And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

Turn to Job 1 and read verse 6-22

1. Look for key/ repeating words in these verses. Do I see any themes or common ideas?

2. How does God display His control in these passages?

3. What do these verses teach me about who God is?

4. How do I think incorrectly about God in this area?

* **Meditate** on the verses on the left and journal any helpful thoughts here:

How should we apply the truth that “God Cares” in our lives?

We can know a lot of facts about God's Sovereignty (that He controls everything that happens), but there is a big difference in knowing those facts experientially.

“How does a child of God reconcile God's sovereignty with human suffering and affliction? How does a Christian apply the sovereignty of God when his wife, whom he loves more than he loves his own life, lies helpless and suffering before him?”²

“But we can rejoice in our God's sovereignty, because it is overshadowed by His goodness, His love, His mercy, His compassion, His faithfulness, and His holiness.”³

Turn to Psalm 78 and read verses 13-28.

Isaiah 30:20-21 And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers:²¹ And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

2 Cor. 4:16-18 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; ¹⁸ While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

1 Cor. 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

1 Peter 4:16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

² <https://bible.org/seriespage/2-god-control>

³ <https://www.gotquestions.org/God-is-in-control.html>

*Read the verses to the left and allow them to help you apply truth to your life.

First, **Meditate** on the verses on the left and journal any helpful thoughts here:

1. Because God is in control, what should my response(s) be?
2. What do I need to “put off” in my life?
3. How do I need to “renew my mind” (change the way I think) because of today's verses?
4. What do I need to “put on” because God is in control?