

**EXPECTATIONS**  
“God’s Sovereignty”  
December 16, 2018

God is sovereign, which means He is in control.

1. Because God is sovereign, my plans have limitations

*“God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph.”*

Luke 1:26-27 (NLT)

*“Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.”*

Proverbs 19:21 (NIV)

*“Now listen, you who say ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business, and make money.’ Why, you don't even know what will happen tomorrow! . . . Instead, you ought to say, ‘IF it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that’ . . . ”*

James 4:13-15 (TEV)

*“Mary responded, “I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you have said about me come true.”*

Luke 1:38

(NLT)

2. Because God is sovereign, my problems have purpose.

*“At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David’s ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. 5 He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.”*

Luke

2:1-5 (NLT)

*“As for you, Bethlehem of Ephrathah, even though you remain least among the clans of Judah, nevertheless, the one who rules in Israel for me will emerge from you. His existence has been from antiquity, even from eternity.”*

Micah 5:2 (NLT)

*" . . . at present, you may be temporarily harassed by all kinds of trials. This is no accident - it happens to prove your faith, which is infinitely more valuable than gold . . . "*

1 Peter 1:6-7 (Ph)

*"We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us--they help us learn to be patient. And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it until finally our hope and faith are strong and steady."*

Romans 5:3-4

3. Because God is sovereign, my prayers have impact

*"They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to conceive, and they were both very old. One day Zechariah was serving God in the Temple... an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the incense altar. Zechariah was shaken and overwhelmed with fear when he saw him. But the angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son."*

Luke 1:7-13

*"(God) . . . is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of -- infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes."*

Ephesians 3:20

(LB)