

Alone But Not Alone #5

God's Handprint of Sovereignty

Word

Scripture Reference

1 Kings 18:16–39

Discussion Questions

1. Recall a time when you wondered, “What did I do to deserve this kind of life?” or asked, “Why did God do this to me?”
2. In 1 Kings 18:15-19, to test which God is great and which is real, Elijah calls for all the people of Israel to gather on Mount Carmel. Elijah was so confident and convicted of His God that he was willing to confront 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah. Do you have the same confidence and conviction in what you believe about the living God to be able to stand and not be intimidated by others? In what situations or aspects in your life do you often have to make a stand for the God that you believe in?
3. What did Elijah say to all the people and what was the people's response (v. 20-21)? Do you agree that this sad reality is still true nowadays? People believed in God but their lives reflect otherwise. What does it mean to acknowledge that God is in control? Why is it so difficult to let God take control of our lives? The question Elijah posted is a question on God's sovereignty which refers to His supreme authority. The same question is posted to us today.
4. In verses 22-24, Elijah offers a test to see God's sovereignty. How did they put God to the test? Describe what the false prophets did and what happened (v. 25). What does this tell us about our prayers towards false gods? Look at verses 26-29. Praise God He is sovereign over all other gods! When you pray, pray directly to Him.

5. Elijah built an altar in the name of the Lord (v. 30-35). What did Elijah do to the sacrifice and the wood? Why do you think did Elijah do this? In this situation God showed His power and that He is sovereign over all impossibilities. How do you see God's sovereignty in your life? What are some aspects or struggles in your life which you consider as impossibilities?
6. In verses 36-37, Elijah recognized his standing in relation to God's sovereignty—he is nothing. Elijah recognized that what he has done in the past is because of God's command (v. 36). God is sovereign over all people. He is the One who changes lives and transforms hearts. Who have you prayed for to see God's sovereignty? Pray that men and women of your acquaintance would recognize God's rule over their lives and His Lordship over them.
7. In verses 38-39, we see that God's fire from heaven consumed everything. The fire was so intense that even the ashes were burned! God's sovereignty is seen in His control over nature. When all the people saw what happened, how did the people respond? If God is sovereign, what is the only appropriate response to Him? Read Joshua 24:15. How have you responded to God's sovereignty?

Walk

God's sovereignty refers to God's authority and control. This means that God has supreme authority over all things. If He is in control, then we have an obligation to follow Him. God does not force you to follow Him, but if you believe that God is God and that He is real, then follow Him. If you believe that He is not in control and that there are other gods, then don't follow Him. Let the kind of life you live show the kind of God you believe in. God is sovereign!

Worship & Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for reminding us that You are sovereign over all things. Empower us to affirm this truth in our lives by the way we live. Allow us to see and trust you in everything that happens in our lives. May we respond to Your sovereignty with reverent worship and faithful obedience. In Jesus' name, Amen.