

Supremacy of God Pt. 1

Pastor James Foley – Shared Sunday, October 11, 2020

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for joining us today! Whether you are here in person or watching via the livestream, you are most welcome. Please have a Bible at the ready and be prepared to take some notes. We have much to cover in a relatively short amount of time.

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 1

This morning I want to begin a NEW multi-part series that should last right up until the Presidential Election. It is NOT my intention to politicize this pulpit. Rather, I want to offer a body of teaching that provides some necessary PERSPECTIVE. Thus said, allow me to open with the following premise...

KEY – Scripture goes to great lengths to present the NATURE of God and His RELATIONSHIP with His creation...

1) Scripture Presents the HOLINESS of God

Exodus 15:11 (NIV)

“Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?”

Isaiah 6:1b–3

1 . . . I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

2) Scripture Presents the WRATH (i.e., JUSTICE) of God

Nahum 1:2, 3b

2 The Lord is a jealous and avenging God;
the Lord takes vengeance and is filled with wrath.

The Lord takes vengeance on his foes
and vents his wrath against his enemies.

3 . . . the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished.

3) Scripture Presents the LOVE of God

John 3:16 (NIV)

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

4) Scripture Presents the MERCY of God

Micah 7:18

18 Who is a God like you,
 who pardons sin and forgives the transgression
 of the remnant of his inheritance?
 You do not stay angry forever
 but delight to show mercy.

5) Scripture Presents the OMNISCIENCE of God

Hebrews 4:13

13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

6) Scripture Presents the OMNIPOTENCE of God

Jeremiah 32:27

"I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?"

7) Scripture Presents the IMMUTABILITY of God

Hebrews 13:8

8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 2

We could go on and on in identifying the varying facets of God's nature and His relationship to that which He has made. What I have offered is a NON-EXHAUSTIVE list. However, I want to put forth the following as the FOUNDATIONAL principle for this new multi-week teaching...

KEY – Scripture presents the SUPREMACY of God (REPEAT).

Q. What—precisely—do I mean by the “supremacy of God”?

A. God is “superior to all others in authority, power and status.”

NOTE – The supremacy of God is especially evident in His DOMINION and MASTERY over all things. He reigns...

Q. What does the Lord have dominion, mastery and rulership over?

Great Q – Let us explore some ANSWERS...

SUPREMACY PT. 1

POINT 1 – God has supremacy over the SPIRITUAL REALM (i.e., satanic or demonic forces).

KEY 1 – It’s vital that we recognize the reality of the spiritual realm. Scripture speaks CLEARLY to its existence...

Ephesians 6:10–13

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

1 Peter 5:8

8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

KEY 2 – It is vital that we recognize that GOD has ultimate DOMINION over such sinister figures and forces. Let us consider the following illustrations from the ministry of Jesus Christ (i.e., as we shall continue to do throughout this this opening installment)...

Luke 4:40–41

40 At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. 41 Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah.

Mark 5:1–13

1 They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. 2 When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. 3 This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. 4 For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. 5 Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

6 When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. 7 He shouted at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God’s name don’t torture me!” 8 For Jesus had said to him, “Come out of this man, you impure spirit!”

9 Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” “My name is Legion,” he replied, “for we are many.” 10 And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.

11 A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. 12 The demons begged Jesus, “Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them.” 13 He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

OUR GOD REIGNS!

SUPREMACY PT. 2

POINT 2 – God has supremacy over the NATURAL REALM.

KEY – We live in a MATERIAL universe created by God for His glory and our benefit (cf. Gen. 1:1; Col. 1:16–17). Even the most casual study of Scripture reveals the SUPERNATURAL agency of God, as He is ABLE to manipulate earthly forces and elements as He sees fit (e.g., last week – 10 Plagues; Red Sea; Quail & Manna). Let us consider these scenes from the life and ministry of Christ...

Mark 4:35–41

35 That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” 36 Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. 37 A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. 38 Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”

39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

40 He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

41 They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

Matthew 14:22–27 (Subsequent to the Feeding of the 5k)

22 At once Jesus had His followers get into the boat. He told them to go ahead of Him to the other side while He sent the people away. 23 After He had sent them away, He went up the mountain by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone. 24 By this time the boat was far from land and was being thrown around by the waves. The wind was strong against them.

25 Just before the light of day, Jesus went to them walking on the water. 26 When the followers saw Him walking on the water, they were afraid. They said, “It is a spirit.” They cried out with fear. 27 At once Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take hope. It is I. Do not be afraid!”

OUR GOD REIGNS!

SUPREMACY PT. 3

POINT 3 – God has dominion over human SICKNESS and DISEASE

KEY – Due to the FALL of Man (cf. Gen. 3), we are mortal beings SUBJECT to physical ailment and malady. However, the Lord has shown time and again in His Word that He is able to bestow physical HEALING (i.e., demonstrating supremacy over sickness)! Consider these brief scenes from the ministry of Christ...

Luke 5:12–13

12 While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.” 13 Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” And immediately the leprosy left him.

Mark 5:24b–29

24 . . . A large crowd followed and pressed around him. 25 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. 26 She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. 27 When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, 28 because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” 29 Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

OUR GOD REIGNS!

SUPREMACY PT. 4

POINT 4 – God has dominion over DEATH and LIFE.

KEY – Throughout the OT and the NT, it is apparent that God has supremacy over matters of life and death. On multiple occasions He has given LIFE to those who were quite literally DEAD! Consider these texts from the life, ministry and teaching of Jesus Christ...

Luke 7:11–15 (FYI – One of Three Times Jesus Raised Others from the Dead)

11 Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. 12 As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. 13 When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.”

14 Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” 15 The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

John 10:18 (Concerning His Own Life)

18 No one takes it [i.e., my life] from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again.

John 5:24–25, 28–29 (Promise of Christ)

24 “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. 25 Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.

28 “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice 29 and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.

Revelation 1:18 (Reality of Christ’s Dominion)

18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

OUR GOD REIGNS!

KEY – Lastly (and perhaps most importantly for our new series)...

SUPREMACY PT. 5

POINT 5 – God has supremacy over the NATIONS and their LEADERS.

Isaiah 40:15–17, 23–24 (Emphasis Mine)

15 Surely the **nations** are like a drop in a bucket;
 they are regarded as dust on the scales;
 he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust.

16 Lebanon is not sufficient for altar fires,
 nor its animals enough for burnt offerings.

17 Before him all the **nations** are as nothing;
 they are regarded by him as worthless
 and less than nothing.

23 He brings **princes** to naught
 and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.

24 No sooner are they planted,
 no sooner are they sown,
 no sooner do they take root in the ground,
 than he blows on them and they wither,
 and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.

Daniel 2:19b–22 (Emphasis Mine)

19 . . . Daniel praised the God of heaven 20 and said:

“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever;
 wisdom and power are his.

21 He changes times and seasons;
 he **deposes kings** and **raises up others**.

He gives wisdom to the wise
 and knowledge to the discerning.

22 He reveals deep and hidden things;
 he knows what lies in darkness,
 and light dwells with him.

KEY 1 – This reality was AGAIN evidenced in the Ministry of Christ...

John 19:9b–11a (Christ’s Trial Before Pilate)

9 . . . “Where do you come from?” he [i.e., Pilate] asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. 10 “Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?”

11 Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above.

KEY 2 – Scripture places near UNCEASING emphasis upon God’s mastery over the nations and the leaders thereof. Frankly, we would have to read through every Book of the Bible to see the FULLNESS of this principle (i.e., from Genesis to Revelation)!

OUR GOD REIGNS!

APPLICATIONS PT. 1

- 1) God has supremacy over the spiritual realm
- 2) God has supremacy over the natural realm
- 3) God has dominion over physical sickness
- 4) God has dominion over death and life
- 5) God has dominion over nations/ldrs

NOTE 2 – These are NOT mere intellectual points for us to contemplate and consider. Rather, these are realities that we are to embrace by faith, allowing each to SHAPE our lives and living! I posit that confidence in the supremacy of God matters NOW more than ever.

KEY – In a world gone mad, we do well to remember that He has NOT abdicated the throne. GOD REIGNS...

APPLICATIONS PT. 2

1) Let Us Affirm the Dominion of God Over the SPIRITUAL Realm

NOTE – It is easy to feel the operation of sinister evil forces in our society and culture. You cannot read the followings words of the apostle Paul and NOT feel some sense that we are seeing Scripture FULFILLED before our very eyes...

1 Timothy 4:1–2

1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. 2 Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

2 Timothy 3:1–5

1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power.

KEY 1 – Yet God reigns supreme. If Satan and his minions are at work in our lives and in the nations, remember that God is at work as well. The enemy can operate ONLY within the parameters established by God, and the Lord has a way of working THROUGH His schemes for His own glory and good purpose (e.g., Job).

KEY 2 – Perhaps the questions is NOT, “Where is God these days?” Rather, it should be, “What is the Lord doing and where am I—i.e., where are we—in relation to His good plan and purpose?” There is a God on the throne and it is to HIM that we must look!

2) Let Us Affirm the Dominion of God Over the NATURAL Realm

NOTE – It is easy to succumb to WORRY over the issues that plague our natural world. A growing number of people believe that a shifting CLIMATE is an existential threat. Many are PANICKED over ongoing reports of forest fires, hurricanes, earthquakes, and more. It would seem that whatever can be shaken IS being shaken!

KEY 1 – Yet God reigns supreme. Has the Lord been taken by surprise re: a potentially shifting climate, forest fires, hurricanes, earthquakes, etc.? NO! Has He become impotent in contending with the natural forces that impact the world in which we live? NO!

Q. What if the Lord is ALLOWING such things—sovereignly—to awaken us to our need for Him?

Q. What if the healing of our land is something that the Lord is WILLING and ABLE to provide?

2 Chronicles 7:14 (Emphasis Mine)

14 if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will **heal their land**.

KEY 2 – There is a God on the throne and it is to HIM that we must look!

3) Let Us Affirm the Dominion of God Over SICKNESS and DISEASE

NOTE – It is easy to feel VULNERABLE and/or SUSCEPTIBLE in the midst of a pandemic. When you made your New Year’s Resolution for 2020, did anyone think they might get a novel virus from a foreign nation? How many live in FEAR of becoming ill, etc., in these times!

KEY 1 – Yet God reigns supreme! Do you believe COVID-19 caught the Lord by surprise? NO! Do you think He was caught unaware and/or taken aback by the news like we were back in March or April? Once again, NO!

Q. What if the Lord is allowing such things—sovereignly—to awaken us to our need for Him?

Q. What if healing for our physical bodies is something that God is willing and able to provide?

Q. What if this was the time for the Church of Jesus Christ to—once again—proclaim His power!

Exodus 15:26

26 . . . “I am the Lord, who heals you.”

KEY 2 – There is a God on the throne and it is to HIM that we must look!

4) Let Us Affirm the Dominion of God Over DEATH and LIFE

NOTE – It is easy to feel the presence of DEATH at this time. We have buried over 210k people in the USA and over 1M globally (and rising). Many are—for the first time—feeling the reality of their MORTALITY (i.e., and that is a frightening proposition for many to consider)...

KEY 1 – Yet God reigns supreme! Could it be that the Lord is using such a season to awaken us to our need for a Savior? YES! Moreover, has God grown impotent in the face of death or does He still hold the keys to death, hell and the grave? NO!

KEY 2 – Whether you are looking for life abundant or eternal, God on the throne and to HIM we must look!

5) Let Us Affirm the Dominion of God Over the NATIONS and their LEADERS

NOTE 1 – It is so easy to get caught up in the happenings of our nation. This is a time of TREMENDOUS civil unrest, racial tension, political upheaval, competing worldviews, etc. This is genuinely NOT an easy time for our country or its people.

KEY 1 – Yet—last I checked—God REIGNS supreme. I believe that He is able to do His part if we are willing to do ours (i.e., individually and collectively) (2 Chron. 7:14): “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

NOTE 2 – It is SO easy to get caught up in this Presidential Election. Many believe that a BIDEN Presidency will lead to catastrophe. Others believe that a continued TRUMP Presidency will lead to the end of the world! Maybe both are RIGHT—maybe both are WRONG...

KEY 2– I can tell you this no matter who wins! There is a God on the throne and to HIM we must look. STUDY the issues and VOTE biblical values. PRAY for your leader(s) (i.e., whoever they may be)! But in the end, REMEMBER that “history is the unbroken record of the failure of human government.”

KEY 3 – What we should be looking for is NOT the election of a President, but the ARRIVAL of the King!

Revelation 22:12–13, 20

12 “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the [f]Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”

20 “Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

CONCLUSION PT. 1

- 1) **Children’s Church** – Training After Service on Sunday, October 25 (Volunteers Take Note/CORI’s, etc.)
- 2) **Children’s Church** – Set to Resume on Sunday Morning, November 1 (i.e., for Children Ages 4–12)
- 3) **Operation Christmas Child** – Boxes are Available for those Who Wish to Participate (i.e., Ruth)
- 4) **Membership** – I am Open to Hosting a Membership Class for Interested Parties (See Me)

CONCLUSION PT. 2

KEY – Thank you for taking the time to join us today. Should those of you who have joined us online wish to give, please do so through the giving portal of our church WEBSITE (www.NewLifeBarre.org). For those who are present, you may place your donation in the OFFERING BOXES in this Sanctuary.

Numbers 6:24–26

24 The Lord bless you
and keep you;

25 the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;

26 the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.