

# **GOD IS SUPREME**

**Acts 19:23-41**

**(Not entirely original with me)**

**Introduction:** Just about everywhere the gospel has gone there has been quite a stir, and in some cases downright uproars. In spreading the gospel at the start of the Church, Paul and others went into areas that were very strong in idol worship and in this particular case, caused a great problem as the city was very strong in believing in all the other gods and some who made their living from such idolatry created quite a problem for those who had been telling about Jesus and that there was only one God. Those who were complaining were intent on getting ride of the men who had been witnessing, but God stepped in and turned things around, even to the good of the gospel. No doubt God is indeed supreme over all things.

## **1. THE LORD GOD IS TOTALLY SUPREME**

1. God has the right and power to do what He wants to with all things.
2. God exercises His right out of His being totally supreme in creation, providence and grace.
3. The Lord God always has His way.

## **2. THE LORD GOD ALWAYS HAS A PLAN AND PURPOSE OF GRACE BY WHICH HE RULES**

1. God's plan is eternal and unalterable.
2. God's eternal purpose is all inclusive.
3. Nothing happens in time except that which God wants.

## **3. THE LORD GOD RULES ALL THINGS IN HEAVEN, EARTH AND HELL FOR HIS PURPOSE**

1. God does not sit afar just watching things happen, He is everywhere, sustaining all things, ruling all things and bringing all things to happen the way He has planned.
  - Even the tiny sparrow is noticed by God and God knows all about that little bird.
2. God rules everywhere and everything totally: the physical world, the animal world, the nations of the world, even Satan and the demons of hell.
3. Everything in the Universe is under the rule of almighty God - EVERYTHING!

## **4. THE LORD GOD BRINGS EVERYTHING TO PASS THAT ACCOMPLISHES SALVATION**

1. Nothing in God's creation is left to chance, luck, fate or the works of people.
2. Everything is so directed by God that there will be people saved and everything will praise Him.
  - It was God who brought Rebecca to the well to meet Abraham's servant.
  - It was God who brought Joseph to Egypt.
  - It was God who brought the Pharaoh's daughter to the stream where baby Moses was found.
3. Every event in history is directed by the hand of God.
  - At Ephesus, once again, God worked in the uproar to bring about a means of making peace and His messengers to be spared.

## **5. ALL WHO ARE SAVED ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD**

1. It was the Holy Spirit who led Simeon to the temple to see the Lord Jesus.
2. It was the Holy Spirit who led Paul from place to place to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ.
  - So it is still today.

3. God moves believers to be of aid to others who are spreading the gospel message.

## **6. THE GOSPEL WILL ALWAYS STIR UP THE ANGER OF NON BELIEVERS**

1. People are never indifferent to the message of the gospel and of God's free grace. (vv21-22)
  - Any time the gospel is preached in the power of the Holy Spirit, those who hear it will either bow to the claims of the Lord Jesus Christ or rise up on opposition against the one witnessing.
2. The gospel of the Lord Jesus is very different from the world's religions for the way of GRACE through Jesus Christ is totally different from the ways of people.
  - Everybody wants to add to the gospel, making salvation dependent in some way upon the ways of people.
  - Think about the many ways that "religion" has become popular and a profitable business for many.
  - Religious trinkets, pictures, crosses, images, etc.

## **7. TRIALS AND PERSECUTIONS THAT HAPPEN ARE GOOD FOR GOD'S PEOPLE**

1. God uses the anger and wrath of the wicked for the good of His children. (vv29-34)
  - Because of the uproar and persecution, God's Church was refined and spread abroad.
  - In the midst of trials and difficulties, true believers stand firm.

## **8. THE LORD GOD KNOWS HOW TO DELIVER HIS PEOPLE OUT OF THEIR TROUBLES**

1. The Lord God used the priests of the pagan temple of Diana and a scared town clerk to save His messengers from the raging mob. (vv 35-41)
2. At times God, in one way or other, sometimes by friends, and sometimes by enemies, keeps His Church people from being harmed and their mission ruined.
3. If only believers could understand that the Lord God has all things under His absolute control and learn how to trust God's wisdom, love and grace, then how different would their lives become.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. What God has done through the ages for those who have had faith in Him and that He has not changed should be of great encouragement and strength to believers in the Lord Jesus Christ today.
2. God is absolutely supreme in all things and has proven it in countless ways and countless times.
3. Believers of today should step out in faith that God is still in control and He will guide, strengthen, protect and empower through His Holy Spirit all who have believed in His Son, Jesus Christ and that each believer has an assignment to fulfill for the cause of the Lord Jesus.
4. Believers, stand firm in your faith for God is God and there is none other and God is in absolute charge of all things.