

If God Is in Control, Then Why? Trusting a Just God in an Unjust World

(STUDY GUIDE)

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I. Is God in Control?

- A. "Control" implies responsibility.
- B. One who is in control is responsible for the outcome of that which he controls.
- C. We observe that there is an abundance of sin, evil, and injustice on the earth.
- D. WHY is there an abundance of sin, evil, and injustice on the earth?
 - 1. Because God wants it so?
 - 2. Because He doesn't care?
 - 3. Because He is distant?
 - 4. Because He wants to teach us something through injustice and evil?
- E. If God is in control, then isn't He ultimately responsible for this sin, evil, and injustice?

II. Justice on the Earth: Four Positions

Position	Is God responsible?	Is this just?	Who believes this?
1	Yes	Yes	Muslims and many Christians
2	Yes	No	Unbelievers
3	No	Yes	Sadists
4	No	No	Covenant Believers

III. God Is Sovereign, But He Is NOT in Control!

A. Sovereignty versus control:

1. **Government by exercising Control:**

- a. Control implies an absolute dominion over that which is governed, possessing supreme power and utilizing it in such a way as to ensure a particular outcome.
- b. Control is the process of governing through a manipulative power that forces people and circumstances to conform to the will of the one in control.
- c. Control **ELIMINATES** the will or choices of others and only recognizes one will—that of the one who exercises the control.

2. **Government by exercising Sovereign Authority:**

- a. Sovereign Authority implies an absolute **ownership** of that which is governed.
- b. It is the state of being the highest authority, with submission to no higher authority.
- c. It possesses supreme power and utilizes it by subjecting power to legitimate **delegated authority**.
- d. Sovereignty recognizes the will and choices of all people.
- e. It therefore governs through delegated authority, **offering choices with corresponding applied consequences**.

B. **God is not a controller, and He does not control anyone.**

1. Example: Apartment lease analogy.
2. God is the owner.
3. Man is the lessee.

C. We are neither Muslims nor fatalists who do believe that God is in control.

D. In our current age, there is one thing that God lacks on earth. What is it?

1. **Authority** was delegated to Adam and Eve. (Genesis 1:26–28)
2. Man was made to rule over the earth. (Psalm 8:3–8)
3. The earth has been given to men. (Psalm 115:16)

4. Man's (Adam's and Eve's) delegated authority on earth was so complete that they—not God—had authority to give the earth over to Lucifer.
 - a. And they did hand it over to Satan.
 - b. **Notice:** Jesus did not dispute this fact with Satan. (Luke 4:6–7)

IV. God Has Always Related to Man by Covenant

- A. God made a covenant with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses and Israel, David, and finally with us by the blood of Messiah Jesus.
- B. There has always been a tension all throughout history as to whether man relates to God by works or by covenant.
- C. Definition of covenant: A unilateral, unconditional, irrevocable promise that shall not be broken.
- D. If you are a stranger to the covenant, even though you “have a covenant,” it will not help you unless three things are true. (Ephesians 2:11–13)
- E. **Example:** Most Christians have been taught that the Passover in Egypt was about God skipping over the houses of the Israelites because of the blood on the door.
 1. This belies a total lack of understanding of **threshold covenant** and the **character of God**, but is commonly taught and believed.
 2. If you don't understand the blood covenant of Passover, you can't understand or apply to your life the blood covenant of Calvary.

V. The Current Battle Is Over God's Covenant Word on Earth

- A. There is a battle taking place on the earth for the destiny of individuals, families, and nations.
 1. The Word is settled in heaven. (Psalm 119:89)
 2. The battle is on earth. (Matthew 6:10)
- B. Satan governs the world system. (1 John 5:19)
- C. Jesus came to DESTROY the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8)
- D. Jesus sent us with His authority. (Matthew 28:19)

VI. Satan's Strategy: Create Disappointment in God Because of Injustice

- A. Satan always wants to make God's actions look random.

- B. God always acts according to His covenant, not randomly. (Romans 4:1–5)
- C. Satan wants to get men to relate to God by works rather than by His covenant word.
- D. The longer you have walked with God, the more you think you have to offer Him.
 - 1. Job’s false image of God. (Job 9:16–23)
 - 2. Job’s “righteous statement.” (Job 13:13–18)

VII. We Are His Ambassadors of His Covenant on Earth

- A. Jesus sent us as His ambassadors. (John 20:21)
- B. Jesus’ prayers were very short commands: “See! Walk! Be healed! Lazarus, come forth!”
- C. We are distributors and enforcers of His Covenant Word, so this is important:
 - 1. Learn the critical details of what a covenant is.
 - 2. Learn what authority our covenant with God gives you.
 - 3. Learn how to practically partner with God as His Covenant Ambassador on earth.
- D. Learn about covenant in my class: **“Why Do Bad Things Happen to Me? How to Release God’s Power Through Your Covenant Authority.”**