

SO SEND I YOU, INC. 2024 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Saint John Baptist Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: 2024 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Time: Feb 28, 2024 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every day, until Mar 31, 2024

LIVE STREAM VIA SAINT JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH YOUTUBE AND FACEBOOK.

DAY 13 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024

ACKNOWLEDGING GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

Dr. Barbara E. Headley

Ephesians 1:11 "In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will..."

The day after the 2016 U.S. presidential election, I awoke with a sense of disbelief. The results were not what I had expected. I thought, "How could God allow this to happen?" That Sunday a deacon came to me and quietly said, "Pastor don't worry, God is in control." How could I tell him that I was worried and was questioning whether God was really in control. I had such thoughts as events happened in the world that were evil and wicked. Then I recalled something I learned early in my Christian walk – "God is sovereign."

In Ephesians 1:11, Paul is referring to God's sovereignty, when he writes that we have been "predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will." The purpose of God's will is God's sovereignty. God's sovereignty is evident in how He governs all human actions. God directs the actions of humans in ways that are hidden and incomprehensible to us but are ultimately to His glory. We accept God's omnipotence and omniscience, but, we often don't fully accept or understand God's sovereignty. We acknowledge that God can do anything, but have difficulty accepting that God does not always do what we think God should do. God has the power and right to carry out His plans and purposes in His own way. This can be both reassuring and disheartening.

Is God a despot, who holds absolute power and exercises it in ways that sometimes can be cruel and oppressive? Absolutely not! God's sovereignty is a comfort to those who belong to Him. God's sovereignty is part of His care for us. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you

hope and a future” (Jer. 29:11). God’s sovereignty has purpose and plans for each of us. We may not always understand how or why, but rest assured, God is in control, moving all of human history to its appointed end and we are predestined to participate in that future by His sovereign will and purpose.

Prayer:

**Lord, thank you for your sovereign will and purpose in our lives and in the world.
In Jesus’ Name. Amen.**