

News from Bible Society

Transmission is provided free by Bible Society as part of our mission to equip the church to live out the Bible's message. We also work creatively and with passion to show that the Bible resonates with issues today – and to make scriptures available where there are none.

James Catford

Group Chief Executive



Questions of sovereignty are all around us. Like the concrete bollard just out of sight of our rear-view mirror, it's something we bump into when we're not really concentrating. Even a well-known verse like 'you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free' (Jn 8.32) has implications for our own sovereignty and the way we respect the sovereignty of others. We are challenged both on the personal level and in the way we both structure and govern our world.

For Bible Society the theme of sovereignty runs through a number of projects with which we are currently associated. Just below the surface of our lives is a concept of biblical proportions.

International development – the hidden dimension of sovereignty

On 13 October 2010, Theos, the public theology think-tank supported by Bible Society, the Catholic aid agency CAFOD and the Christian relief and development agency Tearfund published a report entitled *Wholly Living: A new perspective on international development*. The report works from the premise that politics is about more than economics and that life is about more than quarterly growth figures. It acknowledges that there is no such thing as morally neutral politics, that every significant policy has an ethical content and that, ultimately, our ethics are determined by our view of the world. All these subjects touch on the subject of sovereignty.

Wholly Living advocates a range of policy ideas, in the areas of economics, environment and governance aimed at encouraging government to enable human flourishing. In particular, it calls for a 'Prime Ministerial' commission into human flourishing, along the lines of

Tony Blair's 'Commission for Africa' or Nicolas Sarkozy's 'Commission on the Measurement of Economic Development and Social Progress'. To read the report, go to theosthinktank.co.uk

Sovereignty and freedom – what has the Bible ever done for us?

A few years ago I took a box of Bibles into a detention centre and nearly caused a riot. The asylum seekers that I met seemed to be people without hope. Within hours they could be on a plane back to places and situations they had worked so hard, and spent so much, to escape.

The near riot happened after we started to hand out copies of the Bible. Someone broke ranks and made a dash for it. Others followed and Bibles were being ripped out of our hands. Within seconds our limited stock was gone and we were looking into the eyes of people who desperately wanted a copy in their own language. Bible Society's new *Highlighted Freedom Bible* is dedicated to them.

The Highlighted Freedom Bible includes bite-sized ways to learn more about freedom, in all its many forms. Many of us, me included, want to find the kind of freedom that the Bible describes. Whatever our story and whatever our past, God wants us to experience ever greater freedom.

After receiving a Bible one prisoner wrote to tell me the difference it had made to his life. One line has stuck with me ever since. He said, 'The Bible shows me that every saint has a past and every sinner has a future.' That's the kind of hope the Bible holds out.

The Highlighted Freedom Bible highlights thousands of verses on freedom and features reflections from figures such as Jonathan Aitken and Gram Seed. It is available at an introductory price of £9.99 from biblesources.org.uk/freedom. It is supported by leading prison ministries including Prison Fellowship and Prison Alpha, and is intended for anyone who is struggling to find freedom. Please pray that

many will find true freedom in Christ as they read *The Highlighted Freedom Bible* – freedom from their past, and freedom to become all that God has called them to be.

Personal sovereignty – what legacy do you want to leave?


Tearfund has recently joined Bible Society, Care for the Family, CMS, Leprosy Mission and Livability in the Christian Legacy consortium. Christian Legacy encourages people to leave a gift to their favourite Christian charities when they're writing their will. Legacy giving is vital to the future of Christian charities, and a wonderful way for Christians to continue building God's kingdom on earth even after their earthly lives have ended. By working together to promote legacy giving, the member charities can have greater impact than by working separately. The legacy that we leave in our will is the final act of sovereignty that we can make while we are on this earth. We hope that, as the Christian Legacy campaign grows and develops, more and more Christians will prayerfully consider giving in this way.

Paul Cairns

BIBLE SOCIETY RESOURCES

The Highlighted Freedom Bible

- Over 3,500 verses highlighted to reveal what God has to say about freedom in an easy to read CEV translation
- Includes Bible studies, testimonies and reflections



Introductory price £9.99
offer ends 31 December, normal price £12.99
p&p £1.95

biblesources.org.uk/freedom
Call free on 0800 652 5369