

Sovereign over His Power

JOSEPH BARR was scared to death. And why wouldn't he be? He was looking death square in the eyes. He was crammed, along with the thirty-five other soaking-wet combat infantrymen, into a small landing craft that was being pelted relentlessly by enemy fire.

Staff Sargent Joseph Barr was on the first waves of Higgins boats to land on Omaha Beach. He, with the rest of his crew, had been up since one in the morning, but this was no time to think about sleeping. Their little boat was taking fire from heavy artillery, mortar, and machine guns. The Nazi defenses were targeting the disembarkment ramp at the front of the craft. Joseph could hear the bullets ricocheting off the ramp, which was functioning as a shield, and the only thing keeping them alive. The men were instructed not to jump overboard, but Joseph knew that once the ramp opened, they would be mowed down in an instant.

What was Joseph to do? Would he live through this? Or was he going to die? How did Joseph, only twenty-four years old, get into this situation? Was this moment guided by mere chance? Was it

simply bad luck that brought him to this crucial point? Were the bullets pelting the landing craft guided by chance or by an all-powerful God?

To ask such questions is to ask if God is sovereign. To ask such a question is to ask if God is *actually* God. Can God be God if He is not sovereign—in absolute control over all things? That's the question. Can we even speak of God's sovereignty without speaking of the very nature of who God is?