

Revelation 19:6

God is Omnipotent

Open your Bible to...

Rev. 19:6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!

Pray

Intro

✓ God

In our opening scripture the apostle John records for us the glorious scene in Heaven at the end of the Tribulation...

...when he hears the angles, and the saints erupt into thunderous praise over the defeat of Satan and the Antichrist.

We hear them sing...

“Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!

The word Omnipotent sung by the host of Heaven means “to have all power”...

...and logically anyone Who is able to defeat the Devil, the Antichrist, all their followers, and take back the earth must have great power!

Omnipotence

√ Omnipotence

So in our continuing study of the attributes of God we turn now to His Omnipotence, an attribute that most of us are familiar with.

By Omnipotence the Bible means that God has all-power!

And, since God is infinite in His nature it follows that so too His power must be infinite!

That is to say, God's power is without limit, it's inexhaustible, and it is uninhibited!

Contrasted to everyone and everything else in the universe that is running out of power!

Ex. Entropy

What Omnipotence doesn't mean is that God can do anything! That statement might have caught some of you off-guard because we remember clearly that Jesus said...

*“With men this is impossible, but with
God all things are possible.”
Matthew 19:26*

But we must understand that when Jesus said...

“...with God all things are possible.”

That he was speaking specifically about the salvation of men and women. For it is impossible for people to save themselves...

...but it is possible for God to save Mankind through the substitutionary sacrifice of His perfect Son!

He wasn't saying that God can do anything, for the Bible is clear that there are a number of things that God cannot do!

For example, the Bible tells us that God cannot...

Lie ~ Hebrews 6:18

Deny Himself ~ 2 Timothy 2:13

Be tempted by evil ~ James 1:13

Condone sin or look with favor upon it ~ Habakkuk 1:13

Swear by anyone greater than Himself ~ Hebrews 6:13

In other words, God's unlimited power doesn't make it possible for Him to do anything that is contradictory to His nature—like lie...

...or to do what is truly impossible!

Ex. Truly impossible?

By truly impossible we mean that God cannot do what is actually impossible like create a square circle.

By definition a square can never be a circle, nor can a circle ever be a square.

They cannot be the same thing and simply having all power doesn't make what is truly impossible, possible.

Here's the point, Omnipotence describes the amount of power that God has; it doesn't mean that He can do anything.

So Omnipotence means that God has all-power, and that with that power He can do all that is actually possible.

Ex. Stephen Hawking

That's an important distinction for us to understand about God's omnipotence because even brilliant people get it wrong! For example, the late world-renowned physicist Stephen Hawking asked...

"Is God omni-potent? If He is, can He create a rock so heavy He can't lift it?"

Hawking believed that his question presented Christians with a paradox they couldn't answer!

Because if we say "no", God cannot create a rock so heavy that He cannot lift it...

...then Hawking could conclude that God must not be all-powerful because He's limited in what He can create!

On the other hand, if we say "yes", God can create a rock so heavy that He cannot lift it...

...then Hawking would contend that God is not all-powerful because He can't lift that rock!

Sounds clever but it's really just a silly statement that doesn't prove anything other than that the person asking the question isn't a very good philosopher! As C.S. Lewis, who was a good philosopher once observed...

"Nonsense is still nonsense even when we speak it about God."

In the example of Hawking's statement it's nonsense because is a logic fallacy. It's no different than saying...

“Apples are more nutritious than razor blades because they are red.”

Obviously apples and razorblades are two different categories of things...one is a food, while the other is a tool. Therefore, you can't compare them or limit one by the other.

So too with Hawking's argument.

God and rocks are not in the same category and Dr. Hawking knew that to be true (ref. *Show Me God*)!

And Hawking would agree that by definition a rock, or anything else in the material universe cannot be infinitely large!

Ah, but God Who created rocks and the entire material universe must by definition be infinite—without beginning, or end, and without limits in His size and power!

Therefore, it would be actually impossible for anything that is finite, something created, to be larger than the infinite All-Powerful One Who created it.

So Hawking's argument is, as Lewis observed, simply nonsense and in no way proves that God is not all-powerful.

Bottom line: Hawking misunderstood what omnipotence means...

...it means that God has All-Power, not that He can do what is actually impossible like making a rock bigger than Himself.

Biblical Foundation for God's Omnipotence

✓ The Almighty

The biblical foundation of God's Omnipotence is affirmed 57 different times from cover to cover in the Bible.

However in our English translations we find only one instance where it is rendered as such...

...that's here in Revelation 19:6, our opening text.

In every other instance in both the Old and New Testaments God is described in both Hebrew and Greek as the Almighty! Meaning of course that He has all-might!

And every time that we find "Almighty" used in the Scripture it is always, and exclusively used of God alone.

Never of man, angels, or anything in Creation.

Let me provide you with a few examples of the Bible's description of God as the Almighty!

Genesis 17:1

"...the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless."

Psalms 91:1

*"He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."*

In the New Testament we read...

2Corinthians 6:18

*"I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons
and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."*

And one of my favorite, because it provides biblical evidence
that Jesus is God, is found in Revelation 1:8 where Jesus
declares...

*"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning
and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was
and who is to come, the Almighty."*

Finally, just to make sure we understand that God is unrivaled
in His strength and power, God declares through Isaiah...

*"To whom then will you liken Me,
or to whom shall I be equal?" says the Holy One.*

*Lift up your eyes on high,
And see who has created these things,
Who brings out their host by number;
He calls them all by name,
By the greatness of His might
And the strength of His power;
Not one is missing."*

Isaiah 40:25-26

Isaiah tells us that God's unlimited power and the exceeding greatest of His strength, is on full display in the starry heavens above just as Paul proclaimed in Romans 1...

...the truth that the Creation speaks to us all day everyday of God's magnificent omnipotence!

Implications

✓ Implications

Because God has all-power it means that any power that does exist in the universe, whether physical, spiritual, or in the natural world...

...was given by God and operates at God's discretion!

That is, since God possess all-power it follows that He is the One Who gives power to all others...

...and that He has the authority to limit the power exercised by those to whom He gives it.

And finally, as the Giver of all the power manifest in Creation that He retains the right to take that power back if the one to whom He gave it uses it in a way that displeases Him.

✓ For example ~ people

Nebuchadnezzar learned this truth the hard way! While looking over his kingdom he boasted...

"Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?" ~ Daniel 4:30

No sooner had the words fallen from his lips than a voice was heard from Heaven declaring...

“This decision is by the decree of the watchers, and the sentence by the word of the holy ones, in order that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will...”

Daniel 4:17

And for the next seven years the king was reduced to the intellect of an ox eating grass and living in a pasture! Then, when God had restored his mind Nebuchadnezzar testified of God's sovereignty and power writing...

*“For His dominion is an everlasting dominion,
And His kingdom is from generation to generation.
All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth.*

*No one can restrain His hand
Or say to Him, “What have You done?”*

Daniel 4:34-35

That is, Nebuchadnezzar confessed that he had come to know and testify that God alone is omnipotent and as such is the source of all power and authority!

We find the same testimony in the New Testament when Pontius Pilate lost his temper with Jesus and said...

*“Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that
I have power to crucify You, and power to release
You?” ~ John 19:10*

To which Jesus calmly responded looking the Roman Governor directly in the eyes and for the first time speaking, said...

*“You could have no power at all against Me unless it
had been given you from above. Therefore the one who
delivered Me to you has the greater sin.”
John 19:11*

Here we see clear testimony from Jesus Himself that the power exercised by people is a gift that is given by God alone who possess all power...

...and that God retains the authority to take back the power He has given when it suits His purpose.

✓ For example ~ Satan and angels

People who are not Christians, but who do believe in the world of the spirit often make the mistake of believing that the Devil's power is equal to God's power!

But that is untrue!

Satan, or Lucifer, as he was known prior to his fall is just an angel—one of God's created beings.

As such the only power that Satan has, and can use, is what God has given him and what God allows him to do with it.

That is, God has the Devil is on a short leash!

Ex. Job and Peter

In the first two chapters of Job we read that Satan had to gain God's permission before he could use his power against Job.

We find the same limitation in the New Testament when Jesus informed Peter...

“Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”

Luke 22:31-32

Notice that just as in Job's experience Satan did not demand that God surrender Peter to him, nor did he force God to relinquish His protection over Job...

...no Satan had to ask, beg, plead with God like a whiny toddler for permission to use his power against God's people!

Ap. The good and bad news

The good news is that Satan cannot use any of his power against you and me, without first receiving permission from God to do so!

That's because Satan is limited in his power—the only power he has is that which God has granted him.

Furthermore, God will only allow Satan to use his power against us when He knows that it will produce good in our lives, and in the lives of those who watch us endure Satan's attacks!

The bad news is that Christians don't get to blame Satan for the sin we commit! We don't get to hide behind the excuse...

"The Devil made me do it!"

It's true that Satan can tempt us to sin, but when we sin it's because we have failed to apprehend the power available to us from the Omnipotent God who lives within every believer to resist sin! As Paul reminded his friends at Corinth...

"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."

Romans 8:11

And James adds...

"Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." ~ James 4:7

So we can rejoice in the knowledge that Satan is no match for Almighty God and that God has granted believers all the power we need to resist the Devil and to live a Christ-like life!

✓ Nature

In addition to the power that God grants to people, animals, and angels He has also woven His power into the natural universe.

The energy that pulses from the sun to warm the earth, grow our food, and give health to our bodies.

The gravitational force that moves the oceans.

The power that drives the wind, fire, and earthquakes.

All that power finds its source in the Omnipotent God...

...and is subject to Him!

Ex. Nature is subject to Jesus

We're all familiar with how Jesus handled a fierce storm on the Galilee that was threatening to sink the boat that He and the disciples were in, with a word we are told that He...

"...rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm..."

"...And they (the disciples) were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, "Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!"

God has power over His Creation!

And as I mentioned last week the same Omnipotent God who spoke the universe into existence will one day remove every planet, star, and galaxy...

...and that there is no power in the universe that will be able to resist God's ability to unmake all that He made!

John tells us...

“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.”

Revelation 20:11

“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.

Revelation 21:1

The point is that the Omnipotent God gives power, but He does not give away anything!

When He gives power to people, angels, or nature He does not deplete Himself of even the tiniest bit of His power...

...He is not the least diminished in His strength, nor is He weakened, because His power is limitless!

Ex. Turning off you're A/C so you can make it over the Cuesta Grade

And all the power that He gives to people, angels, and nature remains His own and will one day return to Him again...

...forever He must remain what He has forever been, the Lord God Omnipotent!

Blessings & Benefits

√ The blessings and benefits of God's Omnipotence

In our study of God's attributes we want to know more than just what He is like, and what His various characteristics mean...

We also want to know how these various characteristics of God's nature touch our lives!

So too when we consider God's Omnipotence we want to ask...

"How does the fact that God has all-power influence my life and the choices I make each day?"

What benefit can I as a child of God count on now that I know that God is the Almighty before Whom all other powers must surrender?"

Well the answer to those questions is far too large for us to numerate!

For to discover the number of times that God's power has been a blessing and a benefit in the lives of God's people we would have to take the total number of believers...

...from the Garden of Eden to the present day, and multiply that number by every moment that we have all lived!

That's because the reality is that all day every day in ways that we will never know until we reach Heaven's shores...

God's power is working in the unseen realm on our behalf to protect us, provide for our needs, and open opportunities for us that men and demons have closed!

So while we can't hope to cover all of the ways that God's Omnipotence is a blessing to us...

...I can send you home with some concrete examples of how God's Omnipotence is a benefit to you.

1. God's Omnipotence gives us courage to stand for our convictions

Once a man, a woman or a child comes to know in their heart that God has all-power and that nothing and no one can touch them outside of His will...

...they are able to face even death with an unshakable courage!

By way of example we could point to...

The Hebrew children who when threatened with the fiery furnace refused to bow to Nebuchadnezzar's golden idol!

Or Gideon who was told to attack 135,000 Midianites soldiers with but 300 men!

Or the young Galilean virgin who knew the danger of showing up pregnant before she was married to Joseph but placed her life in the hands of Almighty God to protect her.

In every case the heroes of faith found courage in the promise of God Who simply said...

"Do not be afraid for I am with you."

Who would be with them? The Omnipotent, unrivaled, undefeatable, God under Whose wing is found perfect safety...

...and Who through His limitless power gives His servants the courage to stand for their convictions.

2. God's Omnipotence assures us that God is able to fulfill His every promise

The world and the Devil work all day, every day, to sow doubt into our hearts so as to shake our confidence in God's ability to keep the promises that He has made to us.

So God reminds us in Isaiah 14:24 that...

"The Lord Almighty has sworn, "Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will happen."

That is, God would remind us that because He has All-Power He is able to overcome any and all obstacles to advance His plan that He might fulfill the promises He has made to us...

Nothing and no one can hinder Him!

Therefore, we can put stock in His many promises to us including His promise to bring us safely to the home that He has prepared for those who love Him because He is omnipotent!

3. God's Omnipotence reminds us that He is able to care for our every need

There are many scriptures that we might turn to which reveal the Father-heart of our Omnipotent God.

But one rather obscure verse really captures God's providential care for us in a beautiful, and unexpected way!

That verse is found in the third chapter of the book of Zephaniah! Listen to what God says to His people in vs.17...

*The Lord your God in your midst,
The Mighty One, will save;
He will rejoice over you with gladness,
He will quiet you with His love,
He will rejoice over you with singing."*

Friends I think it's safe to say that when we think of God as the Almighty—the Omnipotent One, we are immediately struck by the awesome display of His power as seen in...

The Creation
The Flood
The parting of the Sea
The Resurrection of Christ

...any of which is more than sufficient to bring us to our knees in humble adoration and worship of Him Who has all-power!

But Zephaniah reveals a surprising truth, a wonderful reality that we might never have associated with the undisputed sovereign ruler of the universe...

...and that is that the Omnipotent One sings over those whom He loves!

Listen to the verse again...

*The Lord your God in your midst,
The Mighty One, will save;
He will rejoice over you with gladness,
He will quiet you with His love,
He will rejoice over you with singing."*

Oh that we could hear that song today! I wonder if it is...

A *lullaby* to drive away the worries that rob us of our peace and the sleep we so desperately need each night?

Perhaps it is a *battle hymn* sung to impart courage as we face new challenges to our faith each day.

Or maybe it's a *love song* to stir our hearts for Heaven where our Beloved has prepared a place for us?

Perchance, the words that the Almighty sings over you are uniquely fit to meet every need in your life!

Whatever it is that God the All-Powerful sings over you today His song reminds us that because He is Omnipotent...

There is no *circumstance* or situation in your life that He can't handle...

...so let Him!

There is no *enemy* in your life that He can't defeat...

...so trust Him to!

There is no *bondage* to sin in your life that He cannot break...

...so bring your chains to Him!

God is the Almighty who by His great power created the heavens, the earth and all that is in them...

His power is unrivaled and against Him no one, and nothing can prevail!

That's the All-powerful, Almighty, Omnipotent God who sings
over you...

...so rejoice!

Close