

Lesson 15

GOD Is OMNIPOTENT

Compiled by Darrell Crow based upon personal studies, notes and prayer.

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GOD'S OMNIPOTENCE

The word omnipotent comes from omni- meaning “all” and potent meaning “power.” As with the attributes of omniscience and omnipresence, it follows that, if God is infinite, and if He is sovereign, which we know He is, then He must also be omnipotent. **He has all power over all things at all times and in all ways.** If God were not omnipotent He would not be God.

God's Omnipotence is incomprehensible, but there are things we can learn about God through this study. For the purpose of this study I've chosen the following powers of God to review

1. GOD is omnipotent
2. GOD is the only being possessing omnipotence.
3. GOD has all power and can do anything.
4. GOD has all power to create any and all things through a single word.
5. GOD has all power over the spiritual world
6. God has all power over all kingdoms, nations, and rulers
7. God has all power to judge sentence all creatures
8. God has complete power over Satan
9. As God incarnate, Jesus Christ is omnipotent and therefore has all power.

GOD IS THE ONLY BEING POSSESSING OMNIPOTENCE

God is the only being Who possesses omnipotence. In the Oxford English Dictionary, “omnipotence” is defined as “all-powerfulness,” or “almightiness.” In other words, when God wants something to be done, it is done. God has all power in heaven and on Earth so unlike the limited power of humans, which is constrained by time, space, and force, God's capabilities are limited only by His own character.

- *Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*

GOD HAS ALL POWER AND CAN DO ANYTHING

- Job spoke of God's power in *Job 42:2: “I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.”* Job was acknowledging God's omnipotence in carrying out His plans. Moses, too, was reminded by God that He had all power to complete His purposes regarding the Israelites: “The LORD answered Moses, *The LORD said to Moses, “Is the LORD'S power limited? Now you shall see whether My word will come true for you or not.” Numbers 11:23.*
- Being omnipotent, God can do anything. However, that doesn't mean God has lost His omnipotence when the Bible says that He cannot do certain things. For example, Hebrews 6:18 (“*so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.*”) says that He cannot lie. That does not mean God lacks the power to lie, but that God chooses not to lie in accord with His own unchangeable moral perfection. In the same way, despite His being all-powerful and hating evil, He allows evil to happen, according to His good purpose. He uses certain evil events to allow His purposes to unfold, such as when the greatest evil of all occurred—the killing of the perfect, holy, innocent Lamb of God for the redemption of mankind.
- God is able to complete everything that He chooses. He has no external limitations. His only limits are those He places upon Himself. The book of Job says that He can do all things and that nothing can restrain Him. Genesis 18:14 simply asks, “Is anything too hard for the LORD?” The answer, of course, is “no.”
 - *Job 42:2 “I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.*
 - *Genesis 18:14 Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son.”*

- God's complete power is unending. Because God would not be God if He were not omnipotent, and because we know that God will never end, we can know that God's power will never cease or diminish. Furthermore, Isaiah said: "*Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. Isaiah 40:28*

GOD HAS ALL POWER TO CREATE ANY AND ALL THINGS

- Nowhere is God's omnipotence seen more clearly than in creation. God said, "Let there be..." and it was so (Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, etc.). Man needs tools and materials to create; God simply spoke, and by the power of His word, everything was created from nothing. God is preeminent for many reasons, not the least of which is His great power. God has complete power over the Earth. The very first chapter of the Bible (Genesis 1) is full of references to God's power. The words of His mouth brought the Universe into existence; He spoke the Cosmos into existence with only a word. In order to create the Universe, God needed no pre-existing matter with which to work; rather, He Himself spoke the very first matter into existence. After He created "the heavens and the Earth," He spoke "light" into existence on Earth (). After creating light, He created the firmament, and much more, all by the power of His word.
 - *Colossians 1:16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him.*
 - *Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.*
 - *Genesis 1:3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.*
- God's Omnipotence is seen in the preservation of His creation. All life on earth would perish were it not for God's continual provision of everything we need for food, clothing and shelter, all from renewable resources sustained by His power as the preserver of man and beast. The seas which cover most of the earth, and over which we are powerless, would overwhelm us if God did not proscribe their limits.
 - *Psalms 36:6 Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; Your judgments are like a great deep. O LORD, You preserve man and beast.*
 - *Job 38:8-11 "Or who enclosed the sea with doors When, bursting forth, it went out from the womb; (9) When I made a cloud its garment And thick darkness its swaddling band, (10) And I placed boundaries on it And set a bolt and doors, (11) And I said, 'Thus far you shall come, but no farther; And here shall your proud waves stop'?"*
- His power is unlimited in regard to Satan and his demons. Satan's attack on Job was limited to only certain actions. He was restrained by God's unlimited power.
 - *Job 1:12 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him." So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.*
 - *Job 2:6 So the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your power, only spare his life."*

GOD HAS ALL POWER OVER THE SPIRITUAL WORLD

- God has complete power over the spiritual realm. Just as the first chapter in the Bible reveals that God created light on Earth, the last chapter in the Bible reminds us that God's power will be responsible for the eternal light in heaven (Revelation 22:5).
 - *"By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host." (Psalm 33:6).*
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GOD HAS ALL POWER OVER ALL KINGDOMS, NATIONS AND RULERS

- God’s omnipotence extends to governments and leaders, as He restrains them or lets them go their way according to His plans and purposes.
 - *Daniel 2:21 “It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men And knowledge to men of understanding.*
 - Jesus reminded Pilate that he had no power over Him unless it had been granted to him by the God of all power.
 - *John 19:11 Jesus answered, “You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.”*
- God’s power over the nations of the Earth is evident. Though God used the children of Israel as His means for bringing Christ to Earth, God’s power over large groups of people has never been limited to Israel. God has authority over all nations, and frequently uses them to accomplish His purposes. Kings have their dominion only because God allows it.
 - *Isaiah 10:5 Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger And the staff in whose hands is My indignation,*
 - *Jeremiah 25:9 behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,’ declares the LORD, ‘and I will send to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land and against its inhabitants and against all these nations round about; and I will utterly destroy them and make them a horror and a hissing, and an everlasting desolation.*
 - *Amos 1 Read the entire chapter.*
 - *Job 12:23 “He makes the nations great, then destroys them; He enlarges the nations, then leads them away.*
- God has complete power over the affairs of men. John Waddey, a widely known minister and author of over 10 books on Christianity, from Colorado and Tennessee and founder of the East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions at Karns observed: “*God was known to the patriarchs as El-Shaddai, God Almighty (Exodus 6:2-3). The term Shaddai, when connected with the Hebrew word El (God) means, ‘the mighty One to nourish, satisfy and supply.’ Thus we see His power to send forth blessings for He is the all-bountiful One” (1987, p. 1).*

GOD HAS ALL POWER TO JUDGE AND SENTENCE ALL CREATURES

- Of course, just as God has the power to bless us and deliver the righteous from spiritual harm, He also has the uncontainable power to destroy the wicked, as can be seen in His utter destruction of the world through the global Flood of Noah’s time except for Noah’s family of eight individuals.”
 - *Matthew 25:41 “Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;*
 - *Hebrews 2:14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,*

GOD HAS COMPLETE POWER OVER SATAN

- God has complete power over the devil, whom He created (though the devil was not evil at the time of his creation. While the devil has certain powers that humans do not possess, Satan is not omnipotent.
 - *2 Corinthians 4:4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*
 - *Ephesians 2:2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.*
- God now limits Satan himself, keeping him from directly inhabiting people or causing people physical pain (Zechariah 13:1-2)
- During his temptation of Christ, Satan admitted that whatever power he possessed had been “delivered to him”. Satan had to ask for God’s permission to harm Job. Jesus said that Satan had desired to sift Peter as wheat; that is, Satan sought the express permission of God. Without it, Satan would be powerless to tempt Peter.

- *Luke 4:6 And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.*
- *Job 1:7-12 The LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it." 8 The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil." 9 Then Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face." 12 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him." So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.*
- While God never had a beginning, Satan was created. For this, and other reasons, Satan is not omnipotent, and his power is far less potent than the power of God. In fact, Satan is actually reliant upon God for his very existence.
 - *Colossians 1:16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him.*
 - *1 John 4:4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.*
- If we were to try to imagine someone whose power approached God's might, we might think of Satan. Yet, the Bible reveals that nothing is too hard for the Lord—even defeating Satan. In fact, Christ has already conquered the devil, and eventually will punish him everlastingly in hell. reads:
 - *Genesis 18:14 Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son."*
 - *Jeremiah 32:17 'Ah Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You,*

AS GOD INCARNATE, JESUS CHRIST HAS ALL POWER

- Christ's omnipotence is seen in the miracles He performed:
 - His numerous healings,
 - the feeding of the five thousand
 - *(Mark 6:33-44 The people saw them going, and many recognized them and ran there together on foot from all the cities, and got there ahead of them. (34) When Jesus went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and He felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things. (35) When it was already quite late, His disciples came to Him and said, "This place is desolate and it is already quite late; (36) send them away so that they may go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." (37) But He answered them, "You give them something to eat!" And they said to Him, "Shall we go and spend two hundred denarii on bread and give them something to eat?" (38) And He said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go look!" And when they found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." (39) And He commanded them all to sit down by groups on the green grass. (40) They sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. (41) And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food and broke the loaves and He kept giving them to the disciples to set before them; and He divided up the two fish among them all. (42) They all ate and were satisfied, (43) and they picked up twelve full baskets of the broken pieces, and also of the fish. (44) There were five thousand men who ate the loaves.)*

- *(Mark 4:37-41 And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up. (38) Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?” (39) And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Hush, be still.” And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. (40) And He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?” (41) They became very much afraid and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?”),*
- Christ repeatedly cast out devils during His earthly ministry (Matthew 8:16; 9:32-33; 12:22), and James revealed that the demons believe in the one God of the Bible, and that because they are aware of God’s omnipotence, they tremble (Luke 8:31; James 2:19).
- The ultimate display of power, raising Lazarus and Jairus’s daughter from the dead, an example of His control over life and death. Death is the ultimate reason that Jesus came—to destroy it and to bring sinners into a right relationship with God.
 - *John 11:38-44 So Jesus, again being deeply moved within, came to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. (39) Jesus said, “Remove the stone.” Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to Him, “Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days.” (40) Jesus said to her, “Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” (41) So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. (42) I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me.” (43) When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth.” (44) The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”*
 - *Mark 5:35-43 While He was still speaking, they came from the house of the synagogue official, saying, “Your daughter has died; why trouble the Teacher anymore?” (36) But Jesus, overhearing what was being spoken, said to the synagogue official, “Do not be afraid any longer, only believe.” (37) And He allowed no one to accompany Him, except Peter and James and John the brother of James. (38) They came to the house of the synagogue official; and He saw a commotion, and people loudly weeping and wailing. (39) And entering in, He said to them, “Why make a commotion and weep? The child has not died, but is asleep.” (40) They began laughing at Him. But putting them all out, He took along the child’s father and mother and His own companions, and entered the room where the child was. (41) Taking the child by the hand, He said to her, “Talitha kum!” (which translated means, “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”). (42) Immediately the girl got up and began to walk, for she was twelve years old. And immediately they were completely astounded. (43) And He gave them strict orders that no one should know about this, and He said that something should be given her to eat.*
 - *1 Corinthians 15:22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.*
 - *Hebrews 2:14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,*
- The Lord Jesus stated clearly that He had power to lay down His life and power to take it up again, a fact that He allegorized when speaking about the temple. He had power to call upon twelve legions of angels to rescue Him during His trial, if needed, yet He offered Himself in humility in place of others.

- *John 2:19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."*
- *Matthew 26:53 Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?*
- *Philippians 2:1-11 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, 2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*
- The great mystery is that Christ's power can be shared by believers who are united to God in Jesus Christ.
 - Paul says, *"And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me." (2 Corinthians 12:9).*
 - God's power is exalted in us most when our weaknesses are greatest because ... *"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, " (Ephesians 3:20).*
 - It is God's power that continues to hold us in a state of grace despite our sin *(2 Timothy 1:12 For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.),*
 - By His power we are kept from falling *(Jude 24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,).*

God's power will be proclaimed by all the host of heaven for all eternity

- *Revelation 19:1 After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God*