

Glen Park Gospel Church
Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes

Rev Chris Trinham

Who Art Thou Lord? No 9

22nd July 2003

The Omnipotent God

Scripture Reading:

Key Verse: *"I am the Almighty God."* Genesis 17.1

By the omnipotence of God we mean that God is able to do as He wills, with or without the use of means. The title *The Almighty God* (Genesis 17.1) comes from two Hebrew words, *El* (or sometimes *Elohim*) means strength, or the strong one, and is one word which God adopts as His name. It is a plural noun used in a singular way (See Genesis 1.26 and 3.22) thus foreshadowing the trinity of the one God. The other word *Shadday* means 'all sufficient' and probably derives from the Hebrew 'Shad' or breast. From this name we learn that God is able to provide for all the needs of His children. This is one of three names in the Old Testament compounded with *El*, (Almighty God, God Most High and the Everlasting God).

The declaration of the omnipotence of God is a simple matter, but there are some aspects worthy of our consideration:

God often works through a channel.

God is able to do as He wills without reference to created things. Creation was an act of fiat, or decree. He gave His word and it was done. *"And God said, Let there be light: and there was light."* Genesis 1.3. However He also works through channels He has chosen, through means. An example of this is the rod of Moses. It was only a shepherd's tool or weapon, See Exodus 4.2-17, but it became the chosen channel through which God demonstrated His power again and again. Read through the story of Moses again. He even used the rod when He was not commanded to, and still the power of God flowed. This rod of Moses became the rod of God. Exodus 4.20.

Today God has chosen to exercise His power through His church, His assembled people. Although ever

and always, the power of God is in the person of His resurrected Son, Jesus Christ. See Philippians 3.10 2 Corinthians 13.4 His power is made available to the world through the Church of Christ in action. Romans 1.16, 1 Corinthians 1.18, 2 Corinthians 4.7, 2 Timothy 1.8. If you feel that your life is powerless as a Christian, have you considered moving more into the stream of the power of God at work through His people?

God has power over His power, that is, He ever acts according to His will. When dynamite goes off, it all goes off; but God has full control of His acts. This means that He never makes a mistake, falls short or overdoes anything. When He created mankind with the freedom of choice He did not make a mistake. He knew about the power of the devil and potential of sin. He did not make a mistake. Provision

for the rebelliousness of man. The provision that He has made He made before the world was created or the men upon it. See Ephesians 1.4&5. He shall bring these things to His intended completion. See Ephesians 1.10. Between these verses we have the redeeming work of the Lord Jesus upon the cross of Calvary. It is clear from this passage of Scripture that God has not lost control of His dealing in the history of men, but that He is accomplishing His purposes. Today is the day of opportunity, a day when men may hear of God's mercy and justice and take part in His redemptive process. The choice is ours. The power is His.

All things are under His control, and therefore all things are under His power. We sometimes feel powerless because of the things that are happening to us or around us. Do not misunderstand the mystery of God's dealing in this world. Read 2 Corinthians 12.10 and be encouraged. Again, because the affairs of men are out of their control does not mean that God is powerless.

God is not obliged to act. How often in a moment of tragedy do we hear someone say, "Why did God let that happen?" There is no glib answer to this soul searching question. It is often not a question,

but a statement of resentment or anger. We could ask why they had this expectation of God's protection when they have no desire to obey Him. However remember that the same sun shines on both the just and the unjust. (Matthew 5.45).

There are some things that God is not able to do:

He cannot fail Deuteronomy 31.8
He cannot leave you. Hebrew 13.5
He cannot lie Numbers 23.19
He cannot deny His word. 1 Kings 8.56&57

Look at what 'He is able' to do:

All that is necessary to fulfil His purpose Luke 3.8
Make you to be one of His saints Acts 20.32
Do more than we ever ask of Him Ephesians 3.20
Aid you in your time of temptation Hebrews 2.18
Give you all you need to do His will 2 Corinthians 9.8
Bring other people to Himself Romans 11.23
Bring His righteous kingdom to this evil world Philippians 3.21
Keep your heart and mind till He comes again 2 Timothy 1.12
Take you every step of the way Jude 1.24
To finish what He came to do in you Hebrews 7.25
Bring the wicked to Judgment Matthew 10.28

Bibliography: Strong A H, Systematic Theology 1907 Twentieth Edition 1958

Welcome Glen Park Gospel Church
Lower Road, Eltham North
Sundays 10.30 am

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