

A Lord's Day Snippet!

Biblical And Southern Studies

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The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth,
The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth;
O let ev'ry tongue and tribe
To him majesty ascribe,
And glorify His matchless name.
The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth,
The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth;
To Him ev'ry knee shall bend,
And His reign shall never end,
For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.

Haldor Lillenas (1885-1959)

God is All Powerful

"The Almighty ... is excellent in power."

Job 37:23

"Excellent" means He is unbounded in greatness. The One true and living God who has all power in heaven and in earth has a strength that is abundant for all that arises in time or eternity. Jesus could say, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth ... go ... teach ... baptize" (Matt. 28:18). His power is declared and His authority is asserted. The word "power" here in the Hebrew has reference to the power of doing or His power at work. God's kind of power accomplishes whatever He pleases in heaven and on earth. It is an irresistible force, and none can stay His hand or question His actions! Since God is almighty in power, He can do more than He desires for His power never dissipates and is always all-powerful.

"Power belongeth unto God" (Ps. 62:11). God Himself is the source of power and the embodiment of it, so to speak. Yes, God is original power and thus has supreme and sovereign authority. "For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God" (Rom. 13:1). The sole power that exists is God's; He is the Omnipotent One and any other form of power must derive from Him in some way. Yes, the power over rulers, the power over critters, the power over life, the power over death, yea, infinite power. Even the power of the lion to kill the zebra is His. This is certainly true over human life and government where God is also working out His will. Even Satan, as the god of this world system of evil, has no power except that allowed by God. Satan is God's devil, who will be dispensed with eternally in hell, which is ruled with God's infinite power.

God has *authoritative power*. Jesus did say, “All power or authority is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Matt. 28:18). And although men are all responsible for their actions, they ultimately do according to God’s decretive will, “The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, *For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done*” (Acts 4:26-28).

God has *active power*. “For with God nothing shall be impossible” (Luke 1:37). He does according to His will in heaven and earth. Nebuchadnezzar learned this the hard way, “I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: and all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou” (Dan. 4:34-35).

God has *absolute power* whereby He is capable of doing what He *wills not* to do, “I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham” (Matt. 3:9). God has the power to use stones to make children or bread, but He does according to His own will!

God also has *actual power* by which He does what He had decreed to do, as noted before He does His will in heaven, and among earth dwellers; and no one can stop Him, and no one has authority to question Him (Dan. 4:35)? Remember Job’s answer to Jehovah, “I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee” (Job 42:2).

There are things that God will not do: he cannot lie (Heb. 6:18; Tit. 1:2; Num. 23:19; Heb. 6:18), He cannot sin (Gen. 18:25), He cannot change (Mal. 3:6; James 1:17), He cannot deny Himself (2 Tim. 2:13); God cannot be tempted (James 1:13). God will not do anything that denies His own character for God works “all things after the counsel of his own will” (Eph. 1:11). No, we will not discuss the question, “Can God create a rock so big He cannot move it?” Whatever God creates He controls! His power is in no way restricted except as He would restrict it. The question was asked, “Is anything too hard for the LORD” (Gen. 18:14). There is an answer, “there is nothing too hard for thee” (Jer. 32:17). God’s power is such that He does abundantly more that you can think (Eph. 3:20).

Child of God, could you be better supported in your earthly trials and tribulations and hopes of heaven than to have the Omnipotent everlasting arm of God to lean on? Also, are you encouraged that God has boundless resources. It should encourage us that no one can thwart His will, question His counsel, or control His hand. Take consolation in His mandates, “He speaks, and it is done!” You should not be afraid for He said, “I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.” Consider that your necessities are finite or limited, but His supply is never exhausted for it is infinite or unlimited. For example, “But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound [or superabounded or kept on abounding]” isn’t that consoling? The power of God’s grace is limitless. Remember the words, “My God shall supply all your needs!” Does your Saviour ever run out of power to save? Never! He said, “*All power* is given unto me in heaven and in earth.” Do you need directions? You have the “Wonderful Counsellor.” Do you need intervention? He is the great High Priest who “ever lives to make intercession” for us, and “as a

Prince, *He has power with God*” and must “prevail.” The Saviour says, “Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.” What do you require as a sinner? Christ is “*the power of God* unto salvation.” “The Lord’s hand is not shortened, that He cannot save.” Nothing can separate the child of God from His power to save and keep (Rom. 8:31-39)!

Remember John Knox as he dealt with Bloody Mary the infamous evil queen. He said to her, “Madam, as right religion took neither [its] origin nor authority from worldly princes, but from the Eternal God alone, so subjects are not bound to frame their religion according to the appetites of their princes.” Knox admonished Mary, “God commands queens to be nurses unto his people.” She replied, “Yes, but you are not the church that I will nourish.” He retorted, “Your will, Madam, is no reason.”