

OMNIPOTENCE OF GOD

Isaiah 14:27: "For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul *it*? and his hand *is* stretched out, and who shall turn it back?"

Sermon to the saints at Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas, on August 28, 2022

God is known by what he has revealed about himself. In order to know what God has revealed about himself, you have to study what he has written. **2 Timothy 2:15:** *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."* Omnipotence or all powerful is an attribute of God which provides substantial comfort to God's elect. So, we will spend some time on this subject (1st in a series on God's omnipotence), in line with my general theme since 2021 on the attributes of God.

Como se llama? My grandchildren are being taught Spanish when they start grade school. One of the first things they learn is the Spanish expression, Como se llama? It literally means, how do you call that? It's used to mean, what is your name? The names of God, in the Hebrew language, include what are thought to be derived from words which signify firmness and stability, strength and power; as Adonai, El, El-Shaddai. El-Shaddai is always rendered almighty. **Genesis 17:1:** *"And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect."* **Exodus 6:3:** *"And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them."* That name is very frequently used in the book of Job (chronologically the first book written in the Old Testament

canon). The Greek word pan-tok-rat'-ore (παντοκρατωρ) ("one who holds sway over all things") is used of God in the New Testament, and is translated almighty and omnipotent. **Revelation 1:8:** *"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."* **Revelation 4:8:** *"And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come."* **Revelation 19:6:** *"And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth."* Power is one of the names of God. **Matthew 26:64:** *"Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven."* Compare with **Hebrews 1:3:** *"Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high."* The angel said to Mary, "[w]ith God nothing shall be impossible," **Luke 1:37.**

Omnipotence is essential to God, it is his nature; a weak Deity is an absurdity to the human mind. We have reason sufficient to believe that the Lord our God, who is the true God, is Almighty; his operations abundantly prove it; though if he had never exerted his almighty power, nor declared it by any external visible works, it would have been the same in himself; for it being his nature and essence, was from eternity, before any such works were wrought, and will be when they shall be no more; and hence it is called, his "eternal power", Romans 1:20: *"For the*

invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse[.]"

One may conclude his almighty power from his being an uncreated eternal "Spirit" (**John 4:24; Hebrews 9:14**). All spirits are powerful, as their operations show; we learn somewhat of their power from our own spirits or souls, which are endowed with the power and faculties of understanding, willing, reasoning, choosing and refusing, loving and hating, etc. They are able to operate upon the body; and to quicken, move, direct and guide it to do whatever they please, and that that is capable of. Angelic spirits are more powerful still, they excel in strength, and are called mighty angels, **Psalm 103:20**: "*Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.*" **2 Thessalonians 1:7**: "*And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels.*" Angels have done very strange and surprising things; one of them slew in one night one hundred and eighty five thousand men, in the Assyrian camp, **2 Kings 19:35**. So, what then cannot God, the uncreated and infinite Spirit, do; who has endowed these with all their power, might, and strength? Doing a word search for "Spirit" and you soon find the Spirit creating and doing all powerful things in the Bible. Can less than omnipotence be ascribed to him?

His omnipotence may be inferred from his "infinity". God is an infinite Being, and so is every perfection of his; his understanding is infinite, and such is his power; see my sermon on the Infinity of God. (November 7, 2021, on WBC's web page). He is unlimited and unbounded, as to space, and so is omnipresent; see my sermon on the

omnipresence of God (July 7, 2022, on WBC's web page). He is unlimited and unbounded as to time, and so is eternal (future sermon in this series). He is unlimited and unbounded as to power, and so is omnipotent. To deny, or to call in question, his omnipotence, is to limit the Holy One of Israel (**Psalm 71:22**), which ought not to be done. This the Israelites are charged with, for distrusting his power to provide for them in the wilderness. **Psalm 78:19**: "*Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?*" **Psalm 78:20**: "*Behold, he smote the rock, that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed; can he give bread also? can he provide flesh for his people?*" **Psalm 78:41**: "*Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.*"

The omnipotence of God may be argued from his "independency;" all creatures depend on him, but he depends on none; there is no cause prior to him, nor any superior to him, or above him, that can control him; none, who, if his hand is stretched out, can turn it back (**Isaiah 14:27**: "*For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?*"), or stop it from proceeding to do what he will; none can stay his hand, or say unto him, what dost thou? "*he does what he pleases in heaven and in earth,*" **Daniel 4:35**.

Moreover, this attribute of God may be confirmed by his "perfection"; God is a most perfect being; but that he would not be if anything was wanting in him. Want of power in a creature is an imperfection, and would be so in God, was that his case. But as he is great, his power is great; there is exuberance, an exceeding greatness of power in him, beyond all conception and expression. He is "*able to*

*do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think", **Ephesians 1:19**: "And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power," and **Ephesians 3:20**: "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."*

And this may be strengthened yet more by observing the "uselessness" of many other "perfections" without omnipotence. Even though he knows all things fit and proper to be done, for his own glory, and the good of his creatures, what does it signify, if he cannot do them? And though he may, in the most sovereign manner, will, determine, and decree, such and such things to be done; of what avail is it if he cannot carry out his will, determinations, and decrees into execution? What dependence can there be upon his faithfulness in his promises, if he is not able also to perform them? And of what use is his goodness, or an inclination and disposition in him to do good, if he cannot do it? Or where is his justice in rendering to every man according to his works (**Romans 2:6**), if he cannot execute it? So, it is a most certain truth, that "*power belongs to God*", as the Psalmist says: "*God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God.*" (**Psalms 62:11**). David ascribes to God even "power" and "might", by which two words he expresses the greatness of power, superlative power, power in the highest degree, even omnipotence, **1 Chronicles 29:12**: "*Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.*"

Please see when angels or men ascribe glory to God, power or might is put into the formula of praise:

Revelation 4:10-11: *"The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."* **Revelation 5:13:** *"And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever."* **Revelation 7:11-12:** *"And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen."*

For this sermon, I offer a sampling of Bible verses on this general subject referenced in connection with **Isaiah 14:27**, which cast various lights on the matter:

Isaiah 23:9: *"The LORD of hosts hath purposed it, to stain the pride of all glory, and to bring into contempt all the honourable of the earth."*

Isaiah 43:13: *"Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?"*

Isaiah 46:11: *"Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it."*

Job 40:8: *"Wilt thou also disannul my judgment? wilt thou condemn me, that thou mayest be righteous?"*

Jeremiah 4:28: *"For this shall the earth mourn, and the heavens above be black: because I have spoken it, I have purposed it, and will not repent, neither will I turn back from it."*

Romans 8:28: *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."*

Romans 8:31: *"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"*

Job 9:12: *"Behold, he taketh away, who can hinder him? who will say unto him, What doest thou?"*

Job 23:13: *"But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? and what his soul desireth, even that he doeth."*

Psalms 33:11: *"The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations."*

Proverbs 19:21: *"There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand."*

Proverbs 21:30: *"There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD."*

Finally, I end with Barnes on **Isaiah 14:27:** "Who has power to defeat his purposes? Difficult as they may be in appearance, and incredible as their fulfillment may seem, yet his purposes are formed in full view of all the circumstances; and there is no power to resist his arm, or to turn him aside from the execution of his designs. ... By the same consideration his people may be comforted at all times. His plans shall

stand. None can disannul them. No arm has power to resist him. None of the schemes formed against him shall ever prosper. Whatever ills, therefore, may befall his people; however thick, and gloomy, and sad their calamities may be; and however dark his dispensations may appear, yet they may bare the assurance that all his plans are wise, and that they all shall stand. No matter how many, or how mighty may be the foes of the church; no matter how strong their cities, or their ramparts; no matter how numerous their armies, or how self-confident may be their leaders, they have no power to resist God. If their plans are in his way they will be thrown down; if revolutions are necessary among human beings to accomplish HIS purposes, they will be brought about; if cities and armies need to be destroyed in order that "his" plans may succeed, and his church be safe, they will be demolished, just as the army of Sennacherib was laid pale in death, and as Babylon — the haughtiest of cities — was overthrown. Who can stand against God? and who can resist the execution of his will?"

Hebrews 13:20-21: *"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. (I love you.) Amen."*