# THE IMMEASURABLE GREATNESS OF GOD'S MAJESTY & POWER

#### Introduction

As we established last week, divine disclosure is the starting point for the doctrine of God. The only way we may know who God is (His attributes) and what He has done (His mighty acts) is through general revelation (creation), special revelation (the Word of God written), and, in these last days, through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (the Word of God incarnate). Man's attempt to discover, define, or describe the triune God would be futile unless He revealed Himself to us. "The thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God" (I Cor. 1:11).

Now, today, having laid this necessary and vital foundation, we will begin our study of one of God's attributes: *His Mighty Power*.

# What Is God's Power?

- 1. "The power of God is that ability and strength, whereby He can bring to pass whatsoever He pleases; whatsoever His infinite wisdom can direct, and whatsoever the infinite purity of His will can resolve" (Stephen Charnock).
- 2. "The power and strength of God whereby He is able to execute and accomplish everything which is in agreement with His character and His truth also to create whatever is conceivable and to do whatever He wishes to do" (Wilhelmus à Brakel).
- 3. "God's omnipotence is the doctrine that God is able to do all His holy will" (Wayne Grudem).

# God's Attribute of Power Revealed

- "With God are wisdom and **might**; he has counsel and understanding. With him are **strength** and sound wisdom" (Job 12:13,16).
- "There is none like you, O Lord; you are great, and your name is great in might" (Jer. 10:6).
- "Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him" (Ps. 115:3).
- "Great is our Lord, and **abundant in power**; his understanding is beyond measure" (Ps. 147:5).
- "By faith we understand that the **universe was created by the word of God**, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible" (Heb. 11:3).

# "In the beginning..."



**G.K. Chesterton** 1874-1936

"Nobody can imagine how nothing could turn into something. Nobody can get an inch nearer to it by explaining how something could turn into something else. It is really far more logical to start by saying, 'In the beginning God created heaven and earth' even if you only mean 'In the beginning some unthinkable power began some unthinkable process.' For God is by its nature a name of mystery, and nobody ever supposed that man could imagine how a world was created any more than he could create one."

# God's Attribute of Power Revealed

- "The Lord is slow to anger and **great in power**, and the Lord will by no means clear the guilty. His way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet" (Nah. 1:3).
- "Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that **power** belongs to God, and that to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love" (Ps. 62:11-12).
- "He is wise in heart and **mighty in strength**" (Job 9:4).
- "You have a mighty arm; strong is your hand, high your right hand" (Ps. 89:13).
- "To empty God of absolute power is to deny that He is God" (Rousas J. Rushdoony).

# Of God, and of the Holy Trinity

"There is but one only, living and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body parts, or passions, immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, most wise, most holy, most free, most absolute; working all things according to the counsel of His own immutable and most righteous will, for His own glory; most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him; and withal, most just and terrible in His judgments, hating all sin, and who will by no means clear the guilty."

Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter II, Section I



"The One who by His strength established the mountains, being girded with might; who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples, so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at Your signs" (Ps. 65:6-8).

# 8 Truths About God's Power

- 1. God creates and owns all things. "God is the Creator, and therefore the Proprietor, Owner, and Lord of all things; apart from him there is neither existence nor ownership; he alone has absolute authority; his will is decisive everywhere and always" (Herman Bavinck). Lord, I acknowledge that everything I am and everything I have has come from your hand and belongs to you.
- 2. God's power is immense. There are no bounds to His power. "Ah, Lord God! It is you who has made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your out-stretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you" (Jer. 32:17; cf. Eph. 3:20-21).

Lord, please forgive me for the littleness of my faith in your mighty power.

# 8 Truths About God's Power

**3. God is not accountable to anyone in the exercise of His power**. He is the sovereign Lord and may act in any way that pleases Him. "Who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, 'Why did you make me like this,' will it?" (Rom. 9:20).

Lord, forgive me for questioning your perfect will.

- **4. God accomplishes everything He has decreed**. "My counsel will stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose" (Is. 46:10). *Lord, I worship you and humbly bow before your perfect plan.*
- 5. God created the world ex nihilo (out of nothing).

Lord, I stand in awe of your great power and the beauty of your creation.

#### 8 Truths About God's Power

- 6. God's power is absolute, the standard of power. He is able to do that which he will not do, but is possible to be done. *Lord, please open my eyes wider to see the splendor & majesty of your power.*
- **7. God's power is ordinate**. He does only that which he has decreed to do, that is, what he has ordained or appointed to be accomplished. *Lord, I affirm that nothing stands in your way of doing all you have decreed.*
- 8. God is universally in control over all things. This includes creation, providence, and redemption. "Who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations" (Ps. 66:7).

Lord, when things seem out of control, help me to trust in your sovereign control over all the affairs of my life and of every detail under heaven.

# God's Power to Save His People

- "Now I know that the Lord saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his right hand" (Ps. 20:6).
- "O God, save me, by your name, and vindicate me by your might" (Ps. 54:1).
- "When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, 'Who then can be saved?' But Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible'" (Mt. 19:25-26).
- "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Rom. 10:13).

# Our Limited Understanding of God's Power

- Moses: "O Lord God, you have only begun to show your servant your greatness and your mighty hand. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as yours?" (Dt. 3:24).
- **David:** "Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all" (I Chron. 29:10-11).
- "But the thunder of his power who can understand?" (Job 26:14).

#### Futile Resistance to God's Power

- "There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the Lord" (Prov. 21:30).
- "For the Lord Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?" (Is. 14:27).
- "But he stands alone, and who can oppose him? He does whatever he pleases" (Job 23:13).
- "The Lord foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations" (Ps. 33:10).

#### Futile Resistance to God's Power

- "He thwarts the plans of the crafty, so that their hands achieve no success" (Job 5:12).
- "O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you" (II Chron. 20:6).
- "He does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, 'What have you done?'" (Dan. 4:35).
- "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted" (Job 42:2).

#### Our Proper Response to God's Power

- "Be exalted, O Lord, in your strength! We will sing and praise your power" (Ps. 21:13).
- "Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!" (Ps. 150:2).
- "The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him" (Ex. 15:2).



### Our Duty to the Next Generation

- "O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come" (Ps. 71:17-18).
- "One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your **mighty acts**" (Ps. 145:4).
- "All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you! They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your **power**, to make known to the children of man your **mighty deeds**, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom" (Ps. 145:10-12).

#### One of the Saddest Verses in the Bible

"And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel" (Judges 2:10).



# The Comfort of God's Power

- "The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms" (Dt. 33:27).
- "For who is God, but the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God? the God who equipped me with strength and made my way blameless" (Ps. 18:31-32).
- "God, the Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places" (Hab. 3:19).
- "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts" (Zech. 4:6).
- "My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!" (Ps. 31:15).

# The Comfort of God's Power

- "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28).
- "And he is the radiance of his glory and the exact representation of his nature, and upholds all things by the word of his power" (Heb. 1:3).
- God draws us into the channels he pleases for fulfilling his own purposes.
- God restrains the malicious nature of the devil. He oversees Satan's strength so that he cannot move one inch from his tether.

#### Sustained by God's Boundless Power



John Calvin 1509-1564

"We must be persuaded not only that as he once formed the world, so he sustains it by his boundless power, governs it by his wisdom, preserves it by his goodness, in particular, rules the human race with justice and judgment, bears with them in mercy, shields them by his protection; but also that not a particle of light, or wisdom, or justice, or power, or rectitude, or genuine truth, will anywhere be found, which does not flow from him, and which he is not the cause."