

I. Introduction and review.

II. God is omnipotent (all powerful). Deut. 10:17 Neh. 9:32 Ps. 24:8 *For the LORD your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty and the awesome God...*

A. God is able to do anything He wants, consistent with His character. Ps. 115:3

II Chron. 20:6 *Our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases... O LORD, the God of our fathers...are You not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand so that no one can stand against You.*

1. His Name is God Almighty (El Shaddai). Gen. 17:1 II Cor. 6:18 Rev. 1:8 4:8

2. His strength is unlimited. Isa. 40:28 *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...*

3. Are there some things God cannot do? Titus 1:2 II Ti. 2:13 Nu. 23:19 I Sa. 15:29 James 1:13,17 Heb. 6:18 Mark 14:36 *Can He make a rock He cannot lift?*

4. This power belongs to God alone. The Bible refutes dualism. Ex. 8:19 I Ki. 8:23 Ps. 86:8 62:11 89:6 Jer. 10:3ff *There is no one like You among the gods, O Lord... For the customs of the people are a delusion; Because it is wood cut from the forest, the work of the hands of a craftsman with a cutting tool. They decorate it with silver and with gold; They fasten it with nails and with hammers So that it will not totter. Like a scarecrow in a cucumber field are they, And they cannot speak; They must be carried; Because they cannot walk! Do not fear them, For they can do no harm, nor can they do any good. There is none like You, O LORD; You are great and great is Your name in might.*

B. God's power is displayed in creation. Gen. 1:1ff Ps. 19:1-6 Job 26 Rev. 4:11

Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed and were created.

1. God spoke and the universe came into being. Heb. 11:3 Ps. 33:6,9 Isa. 44:24 *By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made of things which are visible... By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host... For He spoke and it was done; He commanded and it stood fast... I, the LORD am the maker of all things, Stretching out the heavens by Myself And spreading out the earth all alone.*

2. His power is seen in what He has made. Job 40:15-24 41:1-34 Rom. 1:20 *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made...*

3. He sustains all things by His Almighty power. Col. 1:16-17 Ps. 145:15-16 36:6 147:15ff Mt. 6:25ff *All things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things and in Him all things hold together... The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.*

C. God's power is displayed in miracles.

1. He is not restricted by 'laws' of nature. Josh. 10:13 Gen. 18:14 Luke 1:37

So the sun stood still and the moon stopped until the nation avenged themselves of their enemies... The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day... Is anything too difficult for the LORD?

2. Jesus' miracles prove He is the Son of God. Mk. 4:41 2:6-12 5:42 1:27ff

Mt. 4:23-24 Isa. 35:5ff Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?

D. God's power is displayed in redemption.

1. God redeemed Israel out of Egypt. **Ex. 6:6 15:13** *I am the LORD and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.*
2. The greatest demonstration of God's power is His redemption of us through Christ. **Rom. 1:16-17 Luke 18:26-27 I Co. 1:24** *I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes to the Jew first and also to the Greek...They who heard it said, "then who can be saved?" But He (Jesus) said, "the things that are impossible with people are possible with God."*
3. Jesus disarmed and defeated Satan. **Mt. 12:29 Col. 2:15 Rom. 16:20 I Jo. 3:8 Heb. 2:14** *He rendered powerless him who had the power of death, that is the devil.*
4. When we were dead in sin, He made us alive by His great power. **Eph. 2:1-6 Rom. 6:6** *And you were dead in your trespasses and sins... But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him...*
5. The blood of Christ is powerful to remove sin's stain which could have never been cleansed by the law. **Phil. 3:8-9 Rom. 3:20ff Heb. 9:11-14 10:14,10** *For by one offering He (Jesus Christ) has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.*
6. He continues to keep us by His great power. **I Pe. 1:5** *(We) are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*
7. Because we are saved by God's power, not ours, He receives all the glory. **I Cor. 1:30-31 Eph. 1:6** *But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, just as it is written, "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."*

III. God is absolutely sovereign in the exercise of His power.

A. God's rules His entire creation. **Dan. 4:34-35 Ps. 103:19 104:5-17 Rev. 19:6**

His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but He does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; And no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, 'What have you done?'... The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over all.

1. Everything that happens is according to His sovereign will. **Eph. 1:11b Ro. 11:36** *(He) works all things after the counsel of His will.*
2. God carries out all of His plans perfectly. **Isa. 46:8-11 Jer. 32:27** *I am God and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying 'My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure;' calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it.*
3. No attribute of God is so despised and so loved.

B. What is the difference between God's moral will and God's sovereign will?

1. God's moral will refers to His precepts (commandments) which we should follow. **I Th. 4:3 5:18 Eph. 5:17 6:6 I Jo. 2:17 Mt. 7:21 John 4:34 I Ti. 2:4** *For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is that you abstain from sexual immorality... In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*
2. God's sovereign will refers to His eternal plan. **Eph. 1:11 James 4:15 I Co. 4:19** *If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.*
3. Some events which violate God's moral will occur according to His sovereign will. **Acts 2:23 4:28 Isa. 53:10 Gen. 50:20**

C. God is sovereign over evil.

1. **God controls calamity.** Isa. 45:6b-7 Job 1:15–22 2:6-7,10 *I am the LORD and there is no other. The One forming light and creating darkness. Causing well being and creating calamity. I am the LORD who does all these... The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the Name of the LORD.*
2. **Why does God allow evil?**
 - a. **God never does evil.** Ezek. 33:11 James 1:13
 - b. **God uses the wicked acts of sinners to promote His good and glorious purpose.** Gen. 50:20 Isa. 10:5ff Acts 2:23 4:27-28 Rom. 8:28 9:20 John 9:1ff *You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result to preserve many people alive... For truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.* Ps. 76:10
 - c. **God punishes the sinners He uses.** Is. 10:5ff Pr. 16:4 *Woe to Assyria the rod of My anger... The LORD has made everything for its own purpose, even the wicked for the day of evil.*
 - d. **God sovereignly works through your trials.** Is. 40:10 Js. 1:2ff I Pe. 1:6f 3:17 Ps. 66:10ff II Cor. 12:8-9 *Behold I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction... It is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong*
3. **Why doesn't God just wipe out evil?** He will in His time. Rev. 21:1ff

D. God is sovereign in salvation. Jonah 2:9

1. **He saves those whom He chose from eternity past.** Eph. 1:3-6 Ro. 8:29-30 9:1-13 *He chose us in Him (Christ) before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will.*
2. **You owe your salvation to God's sovereign grace and mercy.** I Co. 4:7 Ro. 9:15-16 *I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion. So then it does not depend upon the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy...*
3. **He sovereignly condemns the wicked.** Ro. 9:18 *So then He has mercy on whom He desires and He hardens whom He desires.*
4. **Is this fair?** Ro. 9:19-24 *You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?" On the contrary, 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?*

E. What is the relationship between God's sovereignty and human free will?

1. **God alone has an absolutely free will.** Job 42:2 Ps. 115:3 Isa. 45:9 *I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted...*
2. **There are limitations to human freedom.**
 - a. **We are only able to will and do that which is consistent with our own nature.**
 - b. **Because we are enslaved to sin, we are incapable of doing good.** Eph. 2:1ff Ro. 8:7-8 3:10ff Jer. 13:23 John 6:44 *The mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*
 - c. **God is sovereign over the 'free' decisions of men.** Pr. 21:1 Isa. 46:8ff *Man will always freely choose the very thing God has sovereignly ordained.*
3. **Is man in any sense free?** Luke 22:22 *For indeed the Son of Man is going as it has been determined; but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed.*
4. **It is a mystery how we can be fully responsible while God is fully sovereign.** Dt. 29:29

- F. Why do so many people have trouble with this attribute of God? John 6:60,65-66 Isa. 45:9 *Many of his disciples... said "This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?"...Jesus said "No one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the father." As a result of this many of his disciples withdrew... Woe to the one who quarrels with his Maker – an earthenware vessel among the vessels of earth! Will the clay say to the potter, 'What are you doing?' Or the thing you are making say, 'He has no hands'?*

IV. Concluding applications.

- A. Humble yourself before Almighty God. Dn. 4:35 Pr. 19:21 Job 40:6ff 42:1-6 Js. 4:13ff *Many are the plans in a man's heart, But the counsel of the LORD will stand...Then Job answered the LORD and said, I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted... I have declared that which I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know... I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You; Therefore I retract And I repent in dust and ashes.*
- B. God's power is comforting.
1. He is sovereign over those in authority over you. Pr. 21:1 Da. 2:20-23 Ro. 13:1 *Wisdom and power belong to Him. It is He who changes the times and the epochs. He removes kings and establishes kings... There is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.*
 2. God is working out His perfect plan through every circumstance in your life, including your trials. Js. 1:2ff I Pet. 1:5ff Ps. 66:10-12 II Cor. 12:8-9 Ro. 8:28
 3. His power is working for you. I Pe. 1:3-5 Phil. 1:6 2:12-13 Isa. 40:29-31 *He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly. Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.*
 4. We will see His power fully demonstrated when Jesus returns. Phil. 3:21 *He will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.*
- C. His power works through us as we proclaim His Word. Isa. 55:11 *So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.*
- D. Praise the Lord God Almighty. I Chron. 29:11-13 *Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O LORD, and You exalt Yourself as head over all. Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone. Not therefore, our God, we thank You, and praise Your glorious Name.*

The Attributes of God: God's Power - Quiz (T/F please explain your answer)

- 1. God can do anything.**
- 2. God is subject to the laws of nature.**
- 3. If God were to relax His sustaining power we, along everything else, would cease to exist.**
- 4. It is comforting to know that God had nothing to do with the recent destructive fires.**
- 5. The gospel is the greatest demonstration of God's power.**
- 6. The success of the gospel depends upon the exercise of our free will to believe.**
- 7. God's sovereignty can never restrict human freedom.**
- 8. Human beings are responsible for the choices they make.**
- 9. God's sovereignty and man's responsibility are contradictory truths.**
- 10. God is unable to save us apart from the cross of Christ.**