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God is Omnipotent

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ARTICLE FIFTY-ONE: GOD IS OMNIPOTENT

“And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, ‘Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!’” (Rev. 19:6, NKJV)

“The LORD of hosts has sworn, saying, ‘Surely, as I have thought, so it shall come to pass, and as I have purposed, so it shall stand’” (Isa. 14:24, NKJV).

“Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand’” (Isa. 46:10, NKJV).

“I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You” (Job 42:2, NKJV).

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth’” (Mt. 28:18, NKJV).

- The two basic categories concerning God’s omnipotence

- A. Those areas in regard to what He *has* done, *is* doing, and *will* do

In essence God has demonstrated His power in the following areas:

- 1. Over disease

“... and said, ‘If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you’” (Exod. 15:26, NKJV).

Here we learn of God’s Divine Medicare Plan for His people. Thus, in the New Testament, Jesus becomes the agent.

“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people” (Mt. 4:23, NKJV).

- 2. Over nature

“But He said to them, ‘Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?’ Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. So the men marveled, saying, ‘Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?’” (Mt. 8:26, 27, NKJV)

- 3. Over man

- a. He created man

“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them” (Gen. 1:26, 27, NKJV).

"Your hands have made me and fashioned me; give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments" (Psa. 119:73, NKJV).

b. He will judge all men

(1) Believers at the Judgment Seat of Christ (Rom. 11:10-12; 1 Cor. 3:11-15; 2 Cor. 5:10)

(2) Unbelievers at the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11-15)

4. Over human nature

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Cor. 5:17, NKJV).

5. Over circumstances

"Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, 'Behold, we are your servants.' Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive'" (Gen. 50:18-20, NKJV).

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose" (Rom. 8:28, NKJV).

6. Over sin

"And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin" (1 Jn. 3:5, NKJV).

7. Over demons

"When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick" (Mt. 8:16, NKJV).

8. Over Satan

"Then Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve'" (Mt. 4:10, NKJV).

"The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever" (Rev. 20:10, NKJV).

The two classic examples of God's power over Satan can be seen in the first two chapters of Job:

a. The first example

"Then the LORD said to Satan, 'Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?'

So Satan answered the LORD and said, 'Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!' And the LORD said to Satan, 'Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person.' So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD" (Job 1:8-12, NKJV).

b. The second example

"Then the LORD said to Satan, 'Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause.' So Satan answered the LORD and said, 'Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!' And the LORD said to Satan, 'Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life.' So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head" (Job 2:3-7, NKJV).

The bottom line of all the above is God knows just how much we can bear and by His power will not allow the world, the flesh, or the devil himself to go one inch beyond that limit.

"Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies" (Psa. 103:4, NKJV).

"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (1 Cor. 10:13, NKJV).

9. Over cities

"Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent: Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you" (Mt. 11:20-24, NKJV).

10. Over nations

"The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, 'Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their

cords from us.' He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision" (Psa. 2:2-4, NKJV).

"Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust on the scales; Look, He lifts up the isles as a very little thing. All nations before Him are as nothing and they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless" (Isa. 40:15, 17, NKJV).

"I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land" (Joel 3:2, NKJV).

11. Over the original world

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day. Then God said, 'Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.' Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day. Then God said, 'Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear'; and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth'; and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the third day. Then God said, 'Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth'; and it was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the fourth day. Then God said, 'Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.' So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' So the evening and the morning were the fifth day. Then God said, 'Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind'; and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind,

cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good” (Gen. 1:1-25, NKJV).

12. Over the new world

“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea” (Rev. 21:1, NKJV).

13. Over the world, the flesh, and the devil

a. The world

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (Jn. 16:33, NKJV).

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever” (1 Jn. 2:15-17, NKJV).

b. The flesh

“O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?” (Rom. 7:24, NKJV)

“But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you” (Rom. 8:9-11, NKJV).

c. The devil

“And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen” (Rom. 16:20, NKJV).

14. Over death itself

This includes *physical death* (the separation of the body from the soul):

“Then they journeyed from Bethel. And when there was but a little distance to go to Ephrath, Rachel labored in childbirth, and she had hard labor. Now it came to pass, when she was in hard labor, that the midwife said to her, ‘Do not fear; you will have this son also.’ And so it was, as her soul was departing (for she died), that she called his name Ben-Oni; but his father called him Benjamin” (Gen. 35:16-18, NKJV).

“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the

devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage” (Heb. 2:14, 15, NKJV).

Very frankly, I have at times struggled in regard to these words, *“he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.”* In all honesty, do we really see this today? In fact, it would seem the enemy actually increases in strength! After all, Christians still die just as regularly as do the unsaved! To shed a little light on this, consider the following:

At 3:49 a.m. on August 9, 1945, a U. S. B-29 super fortress named Bock’s Car, piloted by Major Charles Sweeney rumbled down the long runway at Tinian, a small island in the South Pacific Ocean. Approximately seven hours later it arrived at its target, Nagasaki, a Japanese city of 200,000 located in the southern tip of the Island. Nagasaki was a city of spectacular beauty, particularly in August, for a touch of autumn had come early and many of the trees were brilliant with reddish browns and yellows. In fact it was the most Christian city in Japan with numerous churches. But all this would soon change forever. At 11:01 a.m., the B-29, flying at 30,000 feet dropped the second atomic bomb, for the first had been dropped on Hiroshima three days earlier.

However, unlike Hiroshima which had been given ample warning two days before (Aug. 4) by way of 720,000 leaflets which had fluttered down from the sky, Nagasaki received no warning whatsoever! Thus, forty-two seconds later, the bomb exploded at 1800 feet. Even after an interval of nearly seven decades, the mass destruction of the bomb is still almost incomprehensible. Consider:

The temperature over the immediate target area reached 7000 degrees Fahrenheit. Keep in mind that lead melts at 600 degrees Fahrenheit.

It created a 624 mph windstorm, twice the speed of the most violent tornado on record.

It had a yield of 21,000 tons of TNT, or 42 million sticks of dynamite. This would average out to some 210 sticks per citizen.

Seventy percent of the city was instantly destroyed.

At least 75,000 souls perished. Death was caused by flesh burns, raging three-mile high firestorms, crushing concussions, suffocation and radiation poisoning. Some were simply vaporized!

The light and heat were so intense that numerous silhouettes were imprinted on walls. Various people left permanent outlines of themselves.

As horrifying as all this was, the worst was yet to come for the tens of thousands of survivors, some who had apparently escaped with very minor or even no injuries whatsoever. These were the lucky ones! Well, not really. In fact, to the contrary most were already doomed to die terrible deaths, having been subjected to a lethal dose of

radiation poison!

In 1985 Sue (my wife) and I visited the memorial site at Nagasaki where the bomb exploded. Sometime later, reflecting on that sobering experience, a glorious thought suddenly dawned on me—this was what Jesus was doing on the cross! In fact, His cry, *“It is finished,”* signified two all-important events:

A completed salvation for all repenting sinners.

Assurance of eventual total victory over sin, death, and Satan! Stated another way, God was subjecting the devil with a lethal dose of divine radiation!

“O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 15:55-57, NKJV).

Spiritual death—

The ultimate separation of the unrepentant sinner from God:

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels’” (Mt. 25:31-33, 41, NKJV).

Both deaths—

Here is a great and grand and glorious summary to all believers regarding both deaths:

“O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” (1 Cor. 15:55-57, NKJV).

“. . . but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” (2 Tim. 1:10, NKJV).

“I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death” (Rev. 1:18, NKJV).

“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away” (Rev. 21:4, NKJV).

B. Those areas in regard to what God cannot do

As seen in the physical realm:

1. He cannot create a stone so heavy that He couldn't lift it.
2. He cannot place two mountains alongside without a valley in-between.
3. He cannot plant an unmovable post and then hurl an unstoppable rock at it.

4. He cannot square a circle.
5. He cannot decree a past event that has never happened.
6. He cannot make 2x2 to equal 5.

As seen in the moral realm:

1. He cannot kill Himself (Psa. 90:2).
2. He cannot eliminate one of His attributes.
3. He cannot sin (1 Jn. 3:5).
4. He cannot lie (Num. 23:19; 1 Sam. 15:29; 1 Peter 2:22).
5. He cannot deny Himself (2 Tim. 2:13).

As seen in the human realm:

1. He cannot save a person who refuses to be saved (Mt. 19:22; 23:32).
2. He cannot force anyone to worship Him (Jn. 4:23; Rom. 12:1, 2).
3. He cannot forgive unconfessed sins (1 Jn. 1:9, 10).
4. He cannot allow sin to go on unpunished (Rom. 1:18).

- The two gauges of God's power

In the world of man there are several gauges of power, including horse power, atomic power, etc. This is also the case in the spiritual world. Here are two divine gauges of the Creator's mighty power—one in the Old Testament and one in the New Testament.

A. Old Testament: The Red Sea Crossing

"Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying: 'I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea! The LORD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will exalt Him. The LORD is a man of war; The LORD is His name. Pharaoh's chariots and his army He has cast into the sea; His chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea. You blew with Your wind, the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters. You stretched out Your right hand; the earth swallowed them. For the horses of Pharaoh went with his chariots and his horsemen into the sea, and the LORD brought back the waters of the sea upon them. But the children of Israel went on dry land in the midst of the sea'" (Exod. 15:1-4, 10, 12, 19, NKJV).

B. New Testament: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

" . . . and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come" (Eph. 1:19-21, NKJV).

- The two women who personally experienced God’s power

A. Sarah, an old barren woman

“Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son” (Gen. 18:14, NKJV).

B. Mary, a young virgin girl

“For with God nothing will be impossible” (Lk. 1:37, NKJV).

- An unbelieving king who refused God’s power

A. Name: Ahaz, king of Judah

B. Background: The city of Jerusalem was being attacked by two enemies who were attempting to destroy it. This resulted by God sending the prophet Isaiah to reassure the frightened monarch the capital would not suffer any harm.

C. Invitation and rejection

“Moreover the LORD spoke again to Ahaz, saying, ‘Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above.’ But Ahaz said, ‘I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!’” (Isa. 7:10-12, NKJV).

D. Prophecy

“Then he said, ‘Hear now, O house of David! Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel!’” (Isa. 7:13, 14, NKJV)

Thus, following Ahaz’s rejection, God now gives the whole house of David (all of Israel) a sign regarding His intention to someday forever save the Holy City! And the divine sign? Simply this—Some day a virgin girl would give birth to the Son of God who would accomplish this!!!

Now, fast forward seven centuries later:

“Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ‘Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!’” (Lk. 2:8-14, NKJV)