**God Is All Powerful (SR: Rev. 1:4-8)**

We should, on the basis of what we can know through divine revelation, learn that we can about God, and then be content to leave unanswered those questions which God has not answered.

**I. The Scriptures Teach That God Has All Power**

A. The term for this is omnipotence.

1. The omnipotent God can do by volition whatever He wills. This is the highest conceivable idea of power, and that which is clearly revealed in the Scriptures (Gen. 17:1).

2. There are other ways in which the power of God is described (Gen. 18:14; Jer. 32:17). This power is exercised by the Divine personality and according to His will (Ps. 115:3).

3. The Lord God omnipotent reigns and does His pleasure. This truth is the ground of confidence to His people.

4. In dealing with some problems that people have imagined, we sometimes can suggest solutions. If we are unable, this in no way undermines confidence in the power of God. God has all the solutions to all the problems.

B. There are some who think that God is power; nothing more and nothing less.

1. They think of His power as absolutely unrestrained by reason or morality. He can accomplish whatever is a worthy object of power. Works which involve absurdity or self-contradiction are excluded. Can God make a rock so big that even He cannot lift it? Does God have the power to sin? Such questions are foolishness.

2. It is no limitation of power that it cannot effect the impossible. Infinite goodness cannot do wrong. It is contrary to His nature. His will is determined by His nature.

3. It is certainly no limitation to *perfection* to say that *it cannot be imperfect*.

C. Physical power is limited in what it can accomplish.

1. Physical power can accomplish only that which is the object of physical power. Love cannot be compelled by physical power. The will of people cannot be changed just by power.

2. Since God has given people the power of choice, He does not force the will of people for this would make people something other than what they are made to be. God respects the nature which He has given people.

3. Christ expresses the fact that He does not force His will upon people (Rev. 3:20). We can refuse to let God in our hearts. We can shut Him out as Judge (John 12:48).

4. Jesus did not force the Jews to accept Him (John 5:40). We must distinguish between the fact that God has power, and what God actually does.

**II. Powers of God**

A. There are different types of power which operate in different realms.

1. Because there are different realms of reality, there are different powers of God. First, there is the creative power of God (Gen. 1:1; Ps. 121:2; 146:6).

2. Second, is the miraculous power of God. God intervened in the course of nature and the course of human history. Miracles were used to confirm the word of His messengers (Jn. 20:30f; Acts 2:22).

3. Third, God has power to over-rule. In the workings of the providence of God, He has power to intervene behind the scenes without any sign being manifested.

4. Fourth, God has power to destroy and bring to an end this physical world (2Pet. 3:10).

5. Fifth, God may be said to exercise His power through the governments of mankind (Rom. 13).

B. God’s power to save is revealed in the gospel (Rom. 1:16).

1. This is not the type of power that stops storms or creates a world. It is the power that saves the soul. It is not physical power, but spiritual.

2. Today there are some who despise power other than physical force. Thus there are always those who would attempt to force others to act and think as everyone else.

3. God never uses physical force to coerce us to become Christians. He uses the gospel to persuade us and through His providence, He opens doorways of opportunity for us to respond to Him. The gospel is the power of God. It brings sinful people to righteousness by revealing the great love of God.

4. Being all powerful, He has chosen the gospel for the purpose of saving people, and He has made the gospel fully competent to accomplish His purpose.

5. Nevertheless, there is a restriction of its efficacy to those who believe it. The gospel is to exert moral persuasion. Can this power save a person if they are unwilling to be saved? (John 5:40).

6. Only those who believe will be influenced. Accept what Jesus says (Mk. 16:16).

One with God makes a majority. Rebellion is doomed to fail. What a source of strength and comfort that the God of all power is also the God of all love (John 3:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).