

Text: Colossians 1:9-18

Title: The Lord God Almighty: God is Mighty to Save Part 6

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## Introduction

The first thing evident in the historical Genesis account of creation is God's great power: Gen. 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." The rest of the Scriptures celebrate this great display of the Almighty power of God. Truly God does display wisdom and goodness in the ordering of creation, but to make something from nothing, to speak a word and by this fiat act - create, is power beyond man even in his greatest sophistication. It is this attribute of God's eternal power which is the first thing visible and perceived by men: Ro. 1:20, "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse." Each person knows that God is and that they are responsible to Him, but what people do is suppress this truth in unbelief. It is what this, the true and living God has revealed about Himself, that we have been studying together.

Because God makes His power known in creation, He distinguishes Himself from all idols and false gods by this great creative power. *It pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for the manifestation of the glory of eternal power, wisdom, and goodness, in the beginning, to create, or make of nothing, the world, and all things therein, whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days, and all very good.* Since God created all things, *all things belong to God, all must answer to God, thus God is not under obligation to any, but all are under obligation to God.*

Since we are coming to the Table of our Lord this morning, I want to begin to open the great power of God demonstrated in salvation.

### **I. How is God's power demonstrated in the Precursors of Salvation?**

The Apostle prays for "the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse." His desire for the churches is their growth and spiritual prospering in Christ. In many ways he celebrates and commends to them the power of God. Col. 1:11, "that you may be...strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power...He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins." He traces this great power in God the Son: "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth....All things were created through Him." Jn. 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made

through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life..." The Apostle continues, "All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist." As he said in Acts 17:28, on Mars Hill, "For in Him we live and move and have our being." He is not only Creator, but also Sustainer of all things. And particularly He is redeemer, "He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence."

Now from the first promise of salvation in Gen. 3:15, when God, after the Fall, declared that the Seed of the woman would crush the serpent's head; from that first promise, it has been the power of God which has kept that promise alive and viable. Many times God displayed His great power in the preservation of that lineage through which the Messiah would come. From delivering Noah and his family in the Flood, to God's covenant promise to Abraham and the power that enabled Sarah to conceive Isaac in her old age, God demonstrated His power. Ps. 78, gathers these up, 4, "We will not hide them from their children, telling to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done." v.12, "Marvelous things He did in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt..." The Psalmist rehearses the Red Sea crossing not simply a set of coincidences, but as an act of God's power: v.13, "He divided the sea and caused them to pass through; And He made the waters to stand up like a heap." Verse 26f, "He caused an east wind to blow in the heavens; And by His power He brought in the south wind. He also rained meat on them like the dust..." The judgments brought upon Egypt were acts of God's power: Dt. 4:37, "And because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them; and He brought you out of Egypt with His Presence, with His mighty power, driving out from before you nations greater and mightier than you, to bring you in, to give you their land as an inheritance, as it is this day."

It is for this reason that we ought to praise and worship God: Ps. 106:1f, "Praise the Lord! Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Who can utter the mighty acts of the lord? Who can declare all His praise?....Our fathers in Egypt did not understand Your wonders; They did not remember the multitude of Your mercies....Nevertheless He saved them for His name's sake, that He might make His mighty power known..." Now God's right as Creator and His purposes in redemption for His people are repudiated by many. They object to God doing with His own creation what He wills for the display of His glory. They don't like the notion of God's gracious and merciful purpose to save an innumerable host and the exercise of His power to that end, but this is what the Scripture teaches: Ro. 9:17, "For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth." Israel protected in Egypt, but then delivered from oppression by God's great power. *You mean that nation was raised up on the scene of history and that ruler Pharaoh raised up and*

*given that power and hardened just so God could display His power in the deliverance of His people Israel?* Yes. And God continues to demonstrate His power in the deliverance of His people and the destruction of the wicked. Indeed in the great consummation of all things, in the final salvation of His own and destruction of all the wicked, the power of God shall be manifest.

Remember Jude 24, "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy..." It is this Almighty Lord God, as our Lord said in Mt. 10:28, "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

God in the promise of the covenant of grace promised all throughout the OT the coming of the Messiah, the Christ, and His power is wonderfully displayed in keeping His promise, preserving the seed line of Christ. BUT you will never appreciate the power of God in salvation until you apprehend the power of God's wrath and anger against sin in the destruction of the wicked: Ps. 90:11, "Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath. So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." Ro. 1:18, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness." Until you see yourself as the sinner and facing this power of God's wrath -- you will never truly appreciate and grasp the power of God in salvation!